

# Golf Digest India

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# Editor's Letter

Dear Readers,

**2018 is winding down on a positive note for the image of Indian golf** globally as Shubhankar Sharma made history when he bagged European Tour Rookie of the Year honours and India secured 10th place at the \$7 million World Cup of Golf held in Melbourne. Aditi Ashok has also retained her 2019 LPGA Tour playing rights and Sharmila Nicolette earned a spot on the 2019 Symetra Tour (the second tour of the LPGA).

There is further evidence that golf is a sport that Indians can compete in globally. Golf Digest has been bringing news regularly on 16-year U.S. based Akshay Bhatia (both his parents were born in India) who has been named 2018 USGA Junior Player of the Year following in the path of Phil Mickelson, Jordan Spieth and many other PGA Tour stars. Indian-origin Britisher Aaron Rai won the \$2 million Hong Kong Open just as we go into print. Another Englishman of Indian origin, Jack Singh Brar was near the top of the Challenge Tour and will be seen on the European Tour in 2019. Florida-based Julian Suri is currently 80th on the Official World Golf Rankings.

Compared to more physical sports like basketball, soccer and swimming, in golf, Indians are competitive. For the past 20 years, Indian professional golfers have consistently outperformed players from countries with a much higher base of players like Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines and Taiwan. All this with just a handful of world-class courses and coaches and very little investment or attention being paid at the grassroots level. With concentrated effort in growing the base of juniors and making sure they have access to world-class training and facilities at home, our success could be multiplied manifold. It is time for institutions and corporates to focus more on growing the number of juniors competing in the game and not just focusing on the big-ticket events and players at the top of the pyramid.

If we make 2019 as a year of investing in creating the structures for growing the base of the game besides supporting and nurturing talent, we will reap dividends for decades to come.

Enjoy the cooler weather for the next few months!

Happy Golfing,



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Rishi Narain

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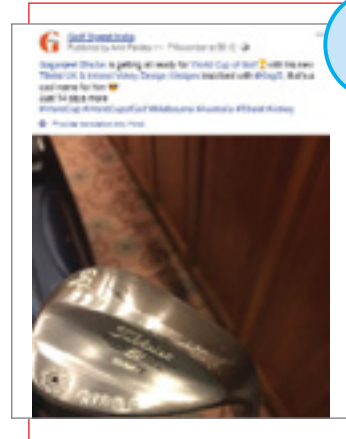
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# WHAT'S TRENDING



L-R: Pawan Murjal, India pro Vani Kapoor, West Indies cricket legend Brian Lara and Rishi Narain at DLF Golf & Country Club



338 reach

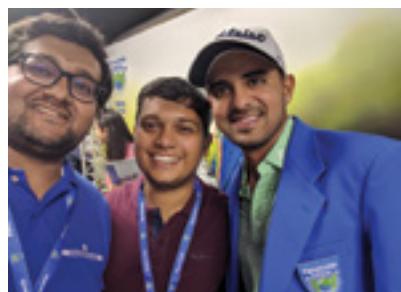


483 reach

**Golf Digest India**  
Published by Amit Pandey [?] · 12 November at 10:00 ·  
Congratulations Anirban Lahiri on his third Top-10 finish this year on the PGA TOUR  
Anirban stood T-10 with an impressive 16-under 288 Mayakoba Golf Classic  
#Indiangolf #pgatour #Progolfer #Mayakoba  
⚙ Provide translation into Hindi



Team GDI @ Panasonic Open India 2018



Khalin Joshi, Panasonic Open India 2018 winner, with the Golf Digest India team.



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# PLAYERS IN THE NEWS

## Sharma Crowned Sir Henry Cotton Rookie Of The Year

**S**hubhankar Sharma has won the Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year Award to cap a remarkable debut campaign on the European Tour.

The Indian started the season with a top ten at the \$2 million UBS Hong Kong Open (November 23-26, 2017) and two weeks later claimed his maiden European Tour victory at the \$1 million (approx.) Joburg Open (December 7-10, 2017) in just his tenth start.

It only took him three more to win his second title as he carded a stunning closing 62 to lift the trophy at the \$3 million Maybank Championship (February 1-4)—joining Rookie of the Year predecessors Jon Rahm and Jeunghun Wang and former World Number One Luke Donald as the only players in the last 20 years to win twice in their first 20 events.

His stellar early-season form earned him a World Golf Championships debut at the \$10 million WGC-Mexico Championship (March 1-4) and a top ten at Chapultepec Golf Club helped him gain a special invitation to the Masters Tournament.

He reached 64th in the Official World Golf Ranking and led the Race to Dubai, securing a top ten on home soil at the \$1.75 million Hero Indian Open and playing in all four of both the WGCs and the Major Championships. At the season-ending \$8 million DP World Tour Championship, Dubai (November 15-18) Sharma finished in a tie for 41st and stood 28th on the final Race to Dubai Rankings presented by Rolex.

“You can only do it once in your career and I’m very happy with the season,” he said. “I’m very happy to be on the Tour here.

“I’m sure a lot of other great players before have won this award, I’m really happy that I was lucky enough to win it this year. I played well and won twice and had a few top tens... I would say I had a great year.”

Sharma joins an illustrious list of winners including Sir Nick Faldo, Sandy Lyle, José María Olazábal, Colin Montgomerie, Thomas Bjørn, Sergio Garcia, Ian Poulter, Martin Kaymer, Brooks Koepka and last year’s winner Rahm. The 22-year-old is also the third Asian winner of the Award in the last four seasons after Byeong-hun An and Wang in 2015 and 2016.

Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year	
1960	Tommy Goodwin (ENG)
1961	Alex Caygill (ENG)
1963	Tony Jacklin (ENG)
1966	Robin Liddle (SCO)
1968	Bernhard Gallacher (SCO)
1969	Peter Oosterhuis (ENG)
1970	Stuart Brown (ENG)
1971	David Liewellyn (WAL)
1972	Sam Torrance (ENG)
1973	Philip Elson (ENG)
1974	Carl Masson (ENG)
1976	Mark James (SCO)
1977	Sir Nick Faldo (ENG)
1978	Sand Lyle (SCO)
1979	Mike Miller (SCO)
1980	Paul Hoad (SCO)
1981	Jeremy Bennett
1982	Gordon Brand Jr. (SCO)
1983	Grant Turner (ENG)
1984	Philip Parkin (WAL)
1985	Paul Thomas (WAL)
1986	José María Olazábal (ESP)
1987	Peter Baker (ENG)
1988	Colin Montgomerie (SCO)
1989	Paul Broadhurst (ENG)
1990	Russell Claydon (ENG)
1991	Per –Ultrik Johansson (ENG)
1992	Jim Payne (ENG)
1993	Garry Orr (SCO)
1994	Jonathan Lomas (ENG)
1995	Jarmo Sandelin (SWE)
1996	Thomas Bjørn (DEN)
1997	Scott Henderson (SCO)
1998	Olivier Edmond (FRA)
1999	Sergio Garcia (ESP)
2000	Ian Poulter (ENG)
2001	Paul Casey (ENG)
2002	Nick Dougherty (ENG)
2003	Peter Lawrie (IRL)
2004	Scott Drummond (SCO)
2005	Gonzalo Fernández-Castaño (ESP)
2006	Marc Warren (SCO)
2007	Martin Kaymer (GER)
2008	Pablo Larrazábal (ESP)
2009	Chris Wood (ENG)
2010	Matteo Manassero (ITA)
2011	Tom Lewis (ENG)
2012	Ricardo Santos (POR)
2013	Peter Uihlein (USA)
2014	Brooks Koepka (USA)
2015	Byeong Hun An (KOR)
2016	Jeunghun Wang (KOR)
2017	Jon Rahm (ESP)

“YOU CAN ONLY DO IT ONCE IN YOUR CAREER AND I’M VERY HAPPY WITH THE SEASON... I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO WIN [THE AWARD] THIS YEAR.”





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## New Global Ranking For Golfers With Disabilities To Launch In 2019



The United States Golf Association (USGA) and The R&A will administer a global ranking for golfers with disabilities, which will help to grow participation and competition around the world and to promote inclusivity within the sport.

The World Ranking for Golfers with Disability will launch on January 1, 2019 and will be administered in tandem with the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) for both men and women.

The USGA and The R&A will assume responsibility for the ranking following agreement with European Disabled Golf Association (EDGA), which created the comprehensive and independent Ranking for Golfers with Disability in 2014.

Further information will be made available later this year.

“One of golf’s best benefits is that it can be played by everyone, and it can be played for a lifetime,” said John Bodenhamer, USGA Senior Managing Director of Championships.

“... Together with the modifications to the Rules of Golf for golfers with disabilities and the USGA’s work to make golf courses more accessible, we are working to create meaningful and lasting change to make golf more welcoming.”

Duncan Weir, Executive Director – Golf Development and Amateur Events at The R&A, said: “There is an accelerating growth in the number of events around the world for golfers with disabilities to compete in so it makes absolute sense that there is a global ranking to provide a robust measurement of an individual’s skill and ability...”

Tony Bennett, President of EDGA, said: “This is a crucial step forward for the growth and development of the sport for golfers with disabilities and we believe it will act as a catalyst for encouraging more people into playing golf, both competitively and recreationally, around the world.”

## 2018 Sees Multiple Changes Atop Ranking Summit

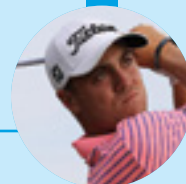
The World No. 1 ranking changed ownership eight times this year.

Little would one have expected this when Justin Thomas replaced compatriot Dustin Johnson atop the ranking back in May. Johnson had just finished his 64th week as the best golfer in the world. Historically speaking, this has happened only once before, in 2016, when the top ranking again saw eight changes.

All this is a far cry from the times when a certain Tiger Woods called the shots. At the peak of his career, *El Tigre* was the paradigm of dominance. In his seventh stint as No. 1, Woods made the top spot his own for 264 weeks (from August 15, 1999 to September 4, 2004). About ten months later, his tenth stint lasted a record 281 weeks (from June 12, 2005 to October 30, 2010). In all, Woods was the top-ranked golfer for a whopping 683 weeks across 11 separate spells.



**Justin Thomas, USA**  
May 13, 2018 – June 9, 2018  
4 weeks



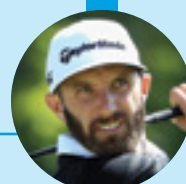
**Dustin Johnson, USA**  
June 10, 2018 – Sep 9, 2018  
13 weeks



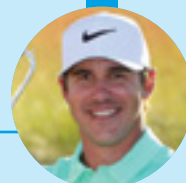
**Justin Rose, ENG**  
Sep 10, 2018 – Sep 22, 2018  
2 weeks



**Dustin Johnson, USA**  
Sep 23, 2018 – Oct 20, 2018  
4 weeks



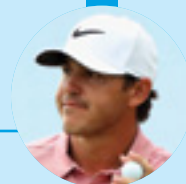
**Brooks Koepka, USA**  
Oct 21, 2018 – Nov 3, 2018  
2 weeks



**Justin Rose, ENG**  
Nov 4, 2018 – Nov 10, 2018  
1 week



**Brooks Koepka, USA**  
Nov 11, 2018 – Nov 17, 2018  
1 week



**Justin Rose, ENG**  
Nov 18, 2018 – present\*



By Amit Pandey



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# Belgium Savour Maiden World Cup Title; India T-10

Two Thomases—Thomas Pieters and Thomas Detry—went to Melbourne with a lot of hope but winning it all would not have crossed their mind before the beginning of the second day of the ISPS Handa Melbourne World Cup of Golf (November 22-25) at The Metropolitan Golf Club, Melbourne when they held the top spot. After all, Belgium's previous best at the World Cup of Golf was T-4 back in 1955!

With the win, the pair earned a whopping \$2.24 million (meaning a handsome \$1.12mn for each) and a maiden team crown for their country. Flory Van Donck, a two-time British Open runner-up and regarded widely as Belgium's finest golfer, captured the individual title in 1960.

## INDIA FINISH T-10

Represented by seasoned professionals Anirban Lahiri and Gaganjeet Bhullar, India stood T-10. The pair collectively pocketed \$102,333.33 (approx. ₹78 lakh).

30-year-old Bhullar and 31-year-old Lahiri also took time to cheer on the visiting Indian cricket team at Melbourne Cricket Ground (in a Twenty20 International fixture against Australia). Lahiri was later seen engrossed in discussion with cricket legend Shane Warne while Bhullar explained the art of bowling to media guests.

The duo had previously represented the country in 2013, when Lahiri finished T-25 and Bhullar 60th in individual competition. India's best result was in 2005 World Cup; the team of Arjun Atwal and Jyoti Randhawa finished ninth.



The victorious Thomas Detry and Thomas Pieters of Belgium



↓ Anirban Lahiri and Gaganjeet Bhullar cheered India on in their T20I face-off against Australia at Melbourne Cricket Ground

## 2018 RESULT SHEET

Position	Country	Players	Total Score
1	Belgium	Thomas Detry/Thomas Pieters	23-under 265
T-2	Australia	Marc Leishman/Cameron Smith	20-under 268
T-2	Mexico	Abraham Ancer/Roberto Diaz	20-under 268
T-4	Denmark	Thorbjorn Olesen/Soren Kjeldsen	17-under 271
T-4	Canada	Adam Hadwin/Nick Taylor	17-under 271
T-6	South Korea	Byeong-hun An/Si Woo Kim	16-under 272
T-6	Italy	Andrew Pavan/Rentao Paratore	16-under 272
8	England	Tyrrell Hatton/Ian Poulter	15-under 273
9	Sweden	Alexander Bjork/Joakim Lagergren	14-under 274
T-10	France	Alexander Levy/Mike Lorenzo Vera	12-under 276
T-10	India	Anirban Lahiri/Gaganjeet Bhullar	12-under 276
T-10	Ireland	Shane Lowry/Paul Dunne	12-under 276



"EXPERIENCE WAS QUITE GOOD. WE BOTH CLICKED REALLY WELL OFF THE COURSE REASON BEING WE KNOW EACH OTHER SO WELL. WE HAD A GREAT START TO THE TOURNAMENT BUT WE COULDN'T PLAY THAT WELL ON THE WEEKEND. ALSO THE CONDITIONS WERE QUITE TOUGH THIS WEEK. BUT OVERALL IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE." —GAGANJEET BHULLAR

# Jaypee Greens Hosts Third Annual Fellowship Cup

The Fellowship Cup is an annual Golf Test Series as a result of a reciprocal partnership between Indian Golf Union (IGU) and South Africa Golf Association (SAGA). The third edition was held at Jaypee Greens Golf and Spa Resort, Greater Noida from November 26-30. The formats were foursomes on day one, fourballs on day two and singles in Friday's final round.

The inaugural event in 2016 took place at Royal Calcutta Golf Club, where the visitors prevailed over the hosts on the very last hole. Last year's faceoff was held at Leopard Creek Country Club, South Africa, where the South Africans scored a dominant 26-6 victory over the visiting Indians.

"THE RECIPROCATING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN GOLFRSA AND IGU HAS PROVEN POSITIVE AND BENEFICIAL. THE TEST IN INDIA PROVIDED A PLATFORM FOR OUR PLAYERS TO SHOWCASE THEIR TALENTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE AND VICE VERSA FOR THE VISITING INDIAN PLAYERS WHO CAMPAIGNED AT LEOPARD CREEK LAST YEAR..."

—GRANT HEPBURN, CEO, GOLFRSA



L-R: Gagan Verma, Rishi Narain, Kulvinder Singh, Dilip Thomas, Vijay Kumar Bhadana, H.S. Kang, Lakhan Singh and Simarjeet Singh of Team India



L-R: David Younge (Manager), Andre Van Dyk, Craig Kamps, Morgan Phillips, Martin Saaiman (Manager), Gerlou Roux (sitting), Ernest Botha, Derek Scullard, Ruan Botha and Steve Williams (Captain) representing the visiting South African team



## Seniors

Gagan Verma

Rishi Narain

Kulvinder Singh

Kapil Dev

## Mid-Amateurs

Simarjeet Singh

H.S. Kang

Lakhan Singh

Vijay Kumar Bhadana



## Seniors

Craig Kamps

Steve Williams

Andre Van Dyk

Morgan Phillips

## Mid-Amateurs

Derek Scullard

Ruan Botha

Ernest Botha

Gerlou Roux

# The Need For Speed

BY AMIT PANDEY [amit@indiagolfdigest.com](mailto:amit@indiagolfdigest.com)

For a long time, golf has been regarded as a slow-paced game with a lot of rules and time to invest for a single round. Enter Speedgolf—an organization and a tournament that attempts to address this perception by introducing the element of speed. The endeavour is to make golf quicker, interesting and challenging for the competitors, all at the same time.



Lauren Cupp

Speedgolf competitors compete in an 18-hole tournament that lasts about an hour. Scores are calculated by combining a player's strokes and elapsed time. The player with the lowest score wins. Competitors are required to carry all their equipment during the tournament usually consisting of between four and six clubs in a lightweight bag.

Their vision is to “develop the sport of speedgolf for Olympic consideration within the next 20 years.” An ambitious aim certainly, considering traditional golf only recently made its way back to the Olympics as of Rio 2016, after a 100-year hiatus. Excerpts from a conversation between Amit Pandey of *Golf Digest India* and Scott Dawley, Founder, SpeedGolf USA.

**GDI: How did you come up with the idea and how do you see it growing in future? Any tournaments that you have planned...**

Speedgolf was started by American mile runner Steve Scott in the late 1970's. The modern era of the sport began in 2012 when the inaugural Speedgolf World Championships was held at Bandon Dunes Golf Resort in Oregon, USA.

Speedgolf has seen slow and steady growth over the last 5 years both in numbers of players and numbers of competitions worldwide. A good example of growth would be the formation of the International Speedgolf Alliance (ISGA) in January 2018. The ISGA founding members are Speedgolf USA, British Speedgolf, Speedgolf Australia, Speedgolf New Zealand, and Speedgolf Japan. At the world championships in October 2018, the ISGA inducted its first new member: Speedgolf Finland. The ISGA's vision is to develop the sport of

speedgolf for Olympic consideration within 20 years.

The ISGA will be releasing the 2019 World Tour Schedule online at [playspeedgolf.com](http://playspeedgolf.com). Each national speedgolf organization also has a 2019 tournament schedule for events within their country.

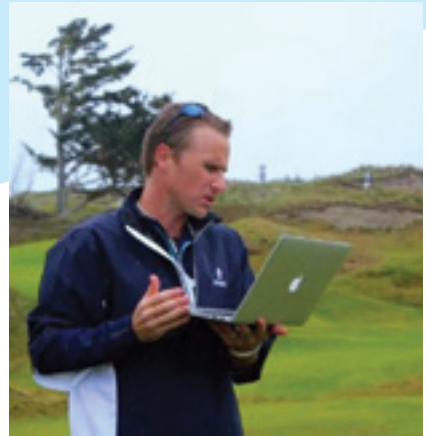
**GDI: How was the experience organising the event and how was the support and response?**

The goal and challenge in organizing the world championships in the USA this year was having to simultaneously organize the US National Championships, which were held two days prior to the world championships. In addition, we made the decision to inaugurate the first speedgolf team championship on the global stage, which happened the day after the world championships.

One of the inspiring things about the world championships this year was that we did not have a major tournament sponsor. In spite of the lack of resources or a significant prize purse, we attracted a world-class global field with players from 8 countries and 19 US States represented. The support of the community is what made the tournament possible.

**GDI: Any plans on organising speedgolf in India?**

There has been some interest from India and we are looking forward to assisting speedgolf in India however we can, with the aim of India becoming a member of the International Speedgolf Alliance in the future. It would be amazing to see India represented in future major speedgolf tournaments as well as India hosting their own tournaments.



A native of Houston, **Scott Dawley** founded **Speedgolf USA** in 2016 and is the 12th-ranked Speedgolfer in the world. Innovation, passion and wellbeing are his core principles and it reflects in the successful ventures he founded or has been associated with in the past, such as *The Pace of Change Golf Podcast*, *LinksRun*, *Speedgolf International* and more—all dedicated to golf, with a common message of making the game faster, making people fit, and solving the issue of high green fees.

**Mikko Rantanen, 2018 Speedgolf World Champion (Men's Division)**

Mikko Rantanen is a Finnish golfer and Business Development Director at *Golf GameBook*—a golf scoring app and golf community with live scoring, game statistics and GPS course planner.

In just his second appearance at the world championships, Rantanen captured the gold—his first time on the podium—with a score of 126:28, 71 golf shots in 55 minutes 28 seconds. He ran 5.4 miles (approx. 8.7km) and it also made him the fastest golfer on earth. Certain sections even affectionately referred to him as the ‘Flying Finn’.

“It was my first competitive speedgolf round that I have played under par. And to do that in world championships is just amazing,” he was quoted as saying at the time. Rantanen also made history—becoming the first player ever to play under par in the world championships.

**GDI: How long have you been playing this format? How do you enjoy it compared to a regular round?**

I started playing speedgolf in 2015, first casually and then in October 2016 took part my first speedgolf tournament which was the 2016 Speedgolf World Championship in Chicago. In 2017-18 I've been organising a Speedgolf Tour here in Finland (5 tournaments) and a National Championship and playing competitive speedgolf since.

Speedgolf is a great way to improve my overall fitness level; it allows me to play more golf because regular golf takes too long, and it also brings a new dimension and challenge to the game, which I really enjoy. I believe it has also helped to play better regular golf.



Mikko Rantanen



Lauren Cupp

**GDI: Your practice regimen?**

During summer, I play two-three rounds of speedgolf each week and do some interval running training as well as long distance training. We organised a speedgolf triathlon and a speedgolf marathon this year, which were tough events and helped get fit. The triathlon was a combination of playing golf on mountain bikes on the front 9, swimming across a bay to reach the back 9, where we played regular speedgolf running. The marathon was simply playing speedgolf covering a running distance of a marathon (42.2 km), which meant five rounds of golf for me and my partner.

**GDI: Any suggestions or tips for upcoming speedgolfers?**

If you want to improve your fitness level, play more golf and play better golf, you should try speedgolf. First you need to get out on the course and give it a try—early in the morning or late in the evening when there are no players in front. Take a pencil or junior bag with six clubs (for example driver or a 3 wood, irons 5, 7, 9 and sand wedge and a putter) and aim for 90 minutes by jogging from the tee to fairway and to the green, walk around the greens. Use running or trail running shoes rather than golf shoes. In speedgolf you don't remove the flag stick and in case you lose a ball or hit it OB, drop it on the line of flight. Keep your routines quick, but don't take practice swings or spend time reading putts. Just look, react and trust your instincts. You'll be surprised by how well you can play. Enjoy the challenge!



Next stop on the schedule is Japan Speedgolf Open 2018 which commences December 1, where four-time defending champion Joe Matusui is ready to be challenged again.

**HOW SCORES ARE CALCULATED:**

Speedgolf calculates a stroke as a minute and adds it to the time you take it to complete the 18-hole course. For example, if you score 72 and take 55 min 45 seconds, your score is 72+55=127, 127:45. If another player scores 68 in 62 min 30 seconds, his/her score will be 68+62=130, 130:32. You are declared winner as you had a lower ratio of time and shot. In speedgolf, the pace of play is given importance.

**Lauren Cupp, 2018 Speedgolf World Champion (Women's Division)**

Lauren Cupp is Head Coach of the men's and women's golf teams at Hamilton College. She retained her title as women's champion at the U.S. Speedgolf Open held at Rome Country Club on October 13 in Rome, N.Y. shooting an 84 in 54 minutes.

**GDI: How long have you been playing this format? How do you enjoy it compared to a regular round?**

I've been playing "slow" golf for most of my life and picked up speedgolf about four years ago. I still enjoy playing competitive regular golf but feel that speedgolf suits my lifestyle better at this point. I'm able to raise a young family and work while getting in both a work out and 18 holes of golf in under an hour!

**GDI: Your practice regimen?**

Play golf, run and play speedgolf! It certainly is a learned skill to be able to perform when your heart is beating out of your chest.

**GDI: Any suggestion or tips for upcoming speedgolfers?**

Speedgolf can be played at any level. Try playing golf faster. You'll be surprised! A few things speedgolf has taught me that I have applied to my regular golf game:

- It's not always advantageous to overthink
- Long pre-shot routines are not necessary
- There are many different types of shots that you can hit with the same clubs
- You don't always have to hit the "perfect shot"; there is something to be said about keeping the ball in play and hitting fairways and greens

# Never Give Up

Top-eight golfers who had to wait over 1,600 days to savour another PGA TOUR victory

## Charles Howell III



### PREVIOUS WIN

Nissan Open  
February 18, 2007

### MOST RECENT WIN

RSM Classic  
November 18, 2018

A period of  
**4,292 Days**  
(approx. 11 years 9 months)

## Paul Casey



### PREVIOUS WIN

Shell Houston Open  
April 5, 2009

### MOST RECENT WIN

Valspar Championship  
March 11, 2018

A period of  
**3,263 Days**  
(approx. 8 years 11 months)

## Kevin Na



### PREVIOUS WIN

Shriners Hospitals  
for Children Open  
October 2, 2011

### MOST RECENT WIN

Greenbrier Classic  
July 8, 2018

A period of  
**2,472 Days**  
(approx. 6 years 9 months)

## Keegan Bradley



### PREVIOUS WIN

WGC-Bridgestone  
Invitational  
August 5, 2012

### MOST RECENT WIN

BMW Championship  
September 10, 2018

A period of  
**2,228 Days**  
(approx. 6 years 1 month)

## Ted Potter Jr.



### PREVIOUS WIN

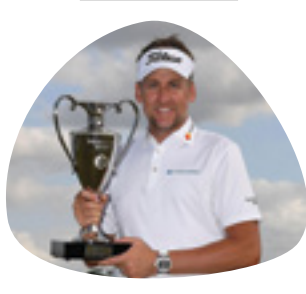
Greenbrier Classic  
July 8, 2012

### MOST RECENT WIN

AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am  
February 11, 2018

A period of  
**2,045 Days**  
(approx. 5 years 7 months)

## Ian Poulter



### PREVIOUS WIN

WGC-HSBC Champions  
November 4, 2012

### MOST RECENT WIN

Houston Open  
April 1, 2018

A period of  
**1,975 Days**  
(approx. 5 years 4 months)

## Tiger Woods



### PREVIOUS WIN

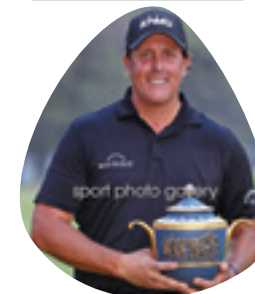
WGC-Bridgestone  
Invitational  
August 4, 2013

### MOST RECENT WIN

The TOUR Championship  
September 23, 2018

A period of  
**1,877 Days**  
(approx. 5 years 1 month)

## Phil Mickelson



### PREVIOUS WIN

The Open Championship  
July 21, 2013

### MOST RECENT WIN

WGC-Mexico Championship  
on March 4, 2018

A period of  
**1,688 Days**  
(approx. 4 years 7 months)

# Woods Spurns Attractive Pay Cheque

Despite what is believed to be a record-setting appearance fee, Tiger Woods has turned down an invite to the European Tour's inaugural tournament in Saudi Arabia.

According to a report from the *Telegraph*, Woods was offered in the neighbourhood of \$3 million to play in the Saudi International. It is not known if Woods turned down the offer due to travel or schedule issues—he is expected to play at the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines the week before—or the controversy that has arisen after *Washington Post* columnist Jamal Khashoggi was murdered in the Saudi Arabia Embassy in Istanbul.

Woods joins the likes of Swiss tennis great Roger Federer who also declined a similar offer to participate in an exhibition this month in Jeddah.

## TRACKING TIGER



Pawan Munjal (Chairman, MD & CEO, Hero MotoCorp) followed Tiger Woods and other golfers in this year's Ryder Cup at Le Golf National, Paris



## CHIKKA ENDS TITLE DROUGHT IN CHANDIGARH

Bengaluru lad Chikkarangappa's playoff win over local favourite Karandeep Kochhar provided a fitting finale to the first ever PGTI event to be named after a legendary Indian golfer, the Jeev Milkha Singh Invitational 2018 presented by TAKE Solutions.

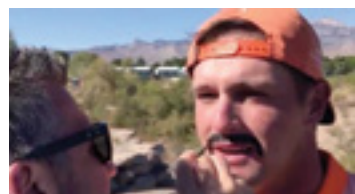
The 25-year-old came through in a cliffhanger at the ₹1.5 crore event after he ended the regulation 72 holes tied at the top along with 19-year-old Kochhar, both carding 12-under-276 at Chandigarh Golf Club. Chikka clinched his 11th title with a par on the first playoff hole and ended a two-year title drought, pocketing ₹24,24,750 in the process.

## GOOD TIMES



### Shark's Surprise to WW-II Hero

Steve Melkinoff, the oldest surviving World War II veteran, had a surprise visit from Greg Norman. The 100-year-old Melkinoff might be the oldest golfer we know who plays full rounds thrice a week! The Shark presented him a full set from Cobra Golf.



### DeChambeau or FowChambeau?

When it comes to having fun, the 'golf scientist' doesn't hold back. Especially when it's Halloween season. DeChambeau dressed up as Rickie Fowler to collect his autograph, which even impressed Fowler although he later said the "moustache could have been better."



### The Joys of Under-par

Renowned English footballer Harry Kane is known for his love of golf. The 2018 World Cup Golden Boot winner recorded his maiden under-par round and boy was he excited, posting a video on his social media accounts just before making the final putt.

### Easy Energy

After 70 professional wins, perhaps one of the few things left for Ernie Els to do was start an energy bar business. Et voila—introducing ELS ENERGY BAR, a snack for golfers. The range debuts with a Chocolate Peanut flavour, a perfect combination of rich dark chocolate and peanut.



## RAYHAN THOMAS BAGS SECOND PRO TITLE AS AMATEUR

Dubai-based Rayhan Thomas shrugged off a runner-up finish in Singapore, at the Asia Pacific Amateur Championship in October, to defeat his arch-rival Mathiam Keyser by five strokes and win the second pro tournament of his career at the 11th King Hamad Trophy in Bahrain. The 19-year-old is ranked 20th on the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR). Held at Royal Golf Club and organized by Bahrain Golf Association, the King Hamad Trophy is the country's premier annual golf championship.

The victory ensured sweet revenge for Thomas who had lost to the South African at the 2017 Dubai Creek Open, a MENA Tour title he had famously hoisted the year before, aged just 16.

Thomas will next follow in the footsteps of PGA TOUR star Rickie Fowler when he plays collegiate golf for the Oklahoma State University Cowboys in 2019.



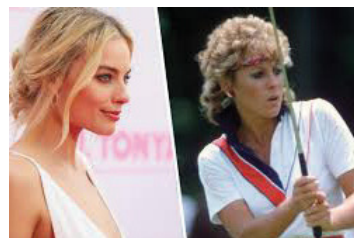
## BRAR CLINCHES EUROPEAN TOUR CARD

Having finished sixth on the Road to Ras Al Khaimah Rankings, 22-year-old Jack Singh Brar punched his ticket to the 2019 European Tour. An English golfer of Indian origin, Brar stood T-17 at the season-ending Ras Al Khaimah Challenge Tour Grand Final last month.

The Hampshire resident, who turned professional last year, has had a commendable 2018. Of the 17

tournaments that he took part in this season, Brar missed the cut only twice. He also secured his maiden win on the European Challenge Tour with victory at the €230,000 Cordon Golf Open in France in September, besides five other top-10 finishes. Brar earned €128,582 (approx. ₹1 crore) in prize money and rose to 221 on the Official World Golf Rankings (OWGR).

## GOOD TIMES



### New Project, New Role

After creating a buzz with *Suicide Squad* and *The Wolf of Wall Street*, Margot Robbie played Tonya Harding in *I, Tonya*—a biographical film on the two-time Olympian. The Aussie will next star as compatriot and Hall-of-Famer Jan Stephenson, who—besides being renowned for her looks—won three LPGA majors.



### Littrell is Team Spieth

Backstreet Boys star vocalist Brian Littrell made time to follow Jordan Spieth at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open. Funnyly, Littrell was thought to be Justin Timberlake by quite a few tournament attendees!



### Stars came down to NASA

LPGA Tour pro Michelle Wie certainly knows how to have fun, even when visiting a place like NASA. Wie was accompanied by women's tennis player Genie Bouchard, Golf Digest duo of Hally Leadbetter and Nicola Rae, and Columbia Records executive Hannah Satzke.



**Women's Golf**



**RIDHIMA THROUGH TO FINAL QUALIFIER**

Fresh off a commendable 20th at the Hero Women's Indian Open last month, Ridhima Dilawari posted 5-over-293 to finish 13th in the Lalla Aicha Tour School's Pre-Qualifier A (November 1-3). Organized at PalmGolf Marrakech Palmeraie, Morocco, the 20-year-old was the only Indian in the 66-strong field. And in so doing, she qualified for the Final Qualifier which will be held from December 16-20.

Pre-Qualifier B at Amelkis Golf Club Marrakech has been scheduled the week before the final (December 7-10) and will see four Indians—Astha Madan, Diksha Dagar, Tvesa Malik, and Saaniya Sharma—take part.

Lalla Aicha Tour School is the official qualifying platform for the Ladies European Tour.

**ADITI RETAINS LPGA CARD**

20-year-old Aditi Ashok successfully extended her Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) card for 2019 after finishing 74th on the Race to CME Globe. The Bengalurean recorded two top-10s out of 24 tournaments she appeared in this season. Her best result was T-6 at the \$1.3 million Volunteers of America LPGA Texas Classic in March. She followed that up with a T-7 at the \$1.5 million LPGA Mediheal Championship the following month.

In her last event for the 2018 season, the \$2.5 million CME Group Tour Championship (November 15-18) in Florida, Aditi finished T-55. She earned \$259,148 (approx. ₹1.85 crore) in prize money this year.



**Thai Sensation Sweeps LPGA Season Awards**

22-year-old Ariya Jutanugarn of Thailand completed one of the most stunning seasons in LPGA history. The youngster, currently No. 1 in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings, won the Race to the CME Globe and the \$1 million bonus that goes to that winner. She also won the Vare Trophy with a scoring average of 69.415, the LEADERS Top 10 competition with 17 top-10 finishes and the Money title at \$2,667,983 and set single-season records in rounds in the 60s (57) and birdies (470).

So dominant was Ariya this year on the LPGA Tour that she wrapped up the points-based Rolex Player of the Year award with three tournaments left.

**WINNING THEM YOUNG**

Nelly Korda, who won the \$2.2 million Swinging Skirts LPGA Taiwan Open, is all of 20. Victory in Taiwan made her the second-youngest winner on the LPGA Tour in 2018 (after 19-year-old Nasa Hataoka who won the \$2 million Walmart NW Arkansas Championship in June) and the ninth first-time winner this year. Here are some more facts about her...

- At 20 years and 3 months, Nelly became the second-youngest American winner on the LPGA since Lexi Thompson who was 19 years, 1 month and 27 days when she won ANA Inspiration in 2014
- Nelly and her older sister Jessica (who has five career wins including one in February this year) are just the third set of sisters in LPGA history who have both won titles. They join Annika Sorenstam (72 career wins) and Charlotta Sorenstam (one win), who were the first to accomplish this feat when Charlotta won in 2000, and Ariya Jutanugarn (10 career wins) and Moriya Jutanugarn (one win, back in April this year).
- Nelly is the daughter of former professional Czech tennis players Petr Korda and Regina Rajchrtová; Korda won his lone grand slam title at the 1998 Australian Open





Pranavi S. Urs



Sunhit Bishnoi and Raghav Chugh

THAILAND

**MYSURU TEENAGER STANDS TALL**

15-year-old Pranavi S. Urs beat Philippine lad Madcalayo Jolo Timothy to win the 11th Singha Thailand Junior World Golf Championship 2018. Played at Royal Hua Hin Golf Course from November 1-4, the Mysuru native won the Overall title a play-off. Pranavi posted scores of 74-71-74-75 for an overall score of 6-over-294 to clinch the Category 'A' Girls title. She and Anika Varma (aged 14) combined to finish third in the team event, posting an aggregate score of 602.

Meanwhile, Delhi lads Sunhit Bishnoi (aged 17) and Raghav Chugh (15) took home the winner's title in the team category following their stellar performance. Bishnoi (77-76-73-69) finished second in the individual category, one shot behind Timothy. Chugh (77-78-75-66) shot a brilliant final round and secured T-3.



**BENGALURU YOUNGSTER TAKING RAPID STRIDES**

All of 12, Rishika Muralidhar continued to impress following some strong finishes this season. The Bengaluru youngster had capped off a memorable 2017, winning five of the seven tournaments she participated in.

Rishika commenced the year with a resounding 16-shot win at the IGU Rotary Karnataka Ladies and Junior Girls Golf Championship in April before recording two more wins (IGU Maharashtra and IGU Western India in May) besides one runner-up showing.

Late September, the young amateur triumphed in the IGU Delhi State NCR Junior Cup (September 24-28) held at Jaypee Greens Golf Course, Greater Noida by 10 strokes. She then secured her fifth title (from seven tournaments) at the IGU Gujarat Ladies and Junior Girls Golf Championship (October 1-4).

Rishika, who finished 17th in the U.S. Kids World Championship in Pinehurst in August, is ranked No. 1 on the IGU Merit List (C Category).

**LITTLE MASTER TOUR HOSTS INDIA QUALIFIER**

The qualifying tournament for the Australian Junior Age Division Championship—which will be staged at Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, Queensland in April 2019—was conducted at Jaypee Wish Town, Noida by Little Master Junior Golf Tour last month. The event saw more than 35 youngsters take part.

**Category**

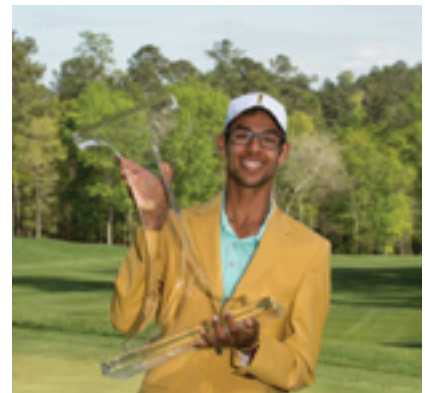
- Boys 17-18
- Boys 15-16
- Boys 13-14
- Boys 11-12
- Boys 9-10
- Boys 7-8
- Girls 17-18
- Girls 13-14
- Girls 6 & Under

**Winner**

- Dhairya Jain
- Rachit Poddar
- Purnayush Mangal
- Eakam Sayal
- Shubham Kumar
- Armin P. Singh
- Amruta Das
- Ragini Navet
- Nanina Kapoor



Dhairya Jain



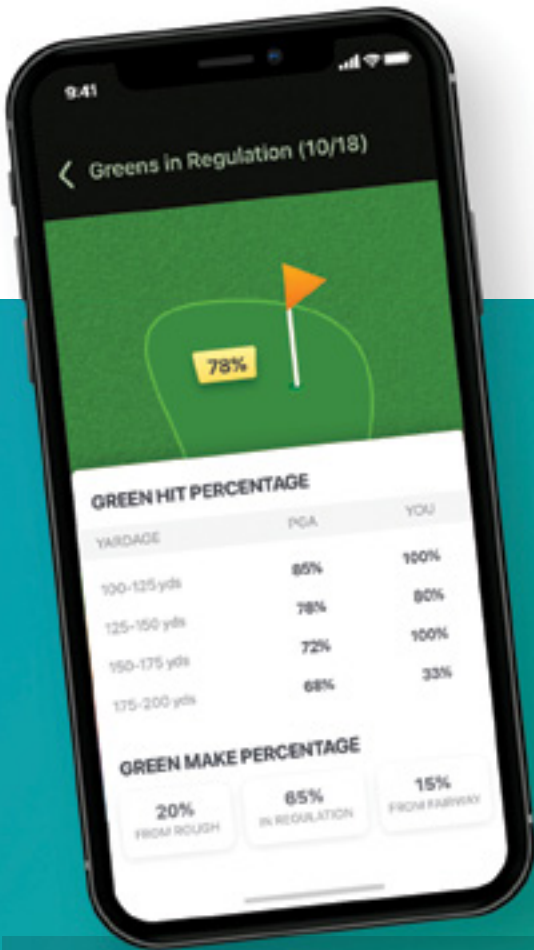
USA

**AKSHAY BHATIA INVITED FOR WALKER CUP PRACTICE SESSION**

The United States Golf Association's (USGA) International Team Selection Committee selected 16 players who will attend a practice session from December 14-18 ahead of the 2019 Walker Cup. 16-year-old Akshay Bhatia of North Carolina is expected to partake in the activity.

Bhatia, whose parents hail from India, is the top-ranked junior golfer in U.S. and received the AJGA Rolex Junior Player of the Year award during a banquet at PGA National on November 18.

Established in 1922, Walker Cup is a golf tournament contested in odd-numbered years by leading amateur golfers in United States, and Great Britain and Ireland. It is named after George Herbert Walker, president of USGA in 1920. Walker is also the grandfather (and namesake) of George H.W. Bush and great-grandfather of George W. Bush, who were respectively the 41st and 43rd Presidents of United States of America.



## play smarter golf

- add shots easily
- get yardage stats
- track progress
- detailed analysis
- connected coaching



### Pranavi Urs

*"For me, Technology is going to help a lot. My Coach Steve Giuliano is also part of upgame. That's how we connect, and he gets to know how I play... help us youngsters to know where we're lacking."*



### Karandeep Singh Kochhar

*"Stats are probably the most important aspect of golf. If you know in what areas you are lacking, it makes practice easier and more efficient, and upgame is doing just that. It is easy to use, and really helpful."*

Available on Google Play and App Store



# Indians Among Winners In Prestigious Junior Competition



**T**he 10th Albatross International Junior Golf Championship saw aspiring golfers from across eight countries go head-to-head in a three-day golf extravaganza at the picturesque Classic Golf & Country Club—a Jack Nicklaus designed signature golf course in the National Capital Region. Over 150 young golfers, including 47 overseas players (Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, UAE, USA

and Vietnam), competed in age group of 6-18 years. The tournament was ratified by The R&A for World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) points and ranked by Junior Golf Scoreboard. Indian golfers were from Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Coimbatore, Delhi NCR, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Ludhiana, Mumbai and Pune.

Saurav Rathi, one of the country's promising talents, bagged the honours with the best combined score over three days.



Saurav Rathi, Winner, Category A (Boys)



Jahanvi Bakshi, Winner, Category A (Girls)



Arjun Bhati, Winner, Category B (Boys)



**SELECT RESULTS**

**Category A**

Boys - Saurav Rathi (India)  
Girls - Jahanvi Bakshi (India)

**Category B**

Boys - Arjun Bhati (India)  
Girls - Natachanok Tunwannarux (Thailand)

**Category C**

Boys - Poomrapee Kaewpiboon (Thailand)  
Girls - Valencia Chang (Thailand)

**Category D**

Boys - Bhumkit pitchayasaowapak (Thailand)  
Girls - Zara Anand (India)

**Category E**

Boys - Nut Itorn (Thailand)  
Girls - Phannaphisar Kiatphonsiri (Thailand)

**Team A/B**

Boys - Nonnate Sengsuriyaporn and Pongsapak Laopakdee (Thailand)  
Girls - Ananya Barthakur and Hitaashee Bakshi (India)



Team winners, Category A/B (Boys): Pongsapak Laopakdee and Nonnate Sengsuriyaporn of Thailand



Team winners, Category A/B (Girls): Hitaashee Bakshi and Ananya Barthakur of India

**ABOUT ALBATROSS:**  
Founded by parents of junior golfers in 2007, Albatross is dedicated to promoting and developing junior golf across India. The primary objective of Albatross Junior Tour is to promote junior golf in the country by organising regular competitive tournaments across various age groups. Besides, the Tour also conducts training camps that focus on physical fitness and mental toughness among the youngsters—an endeavour to help junior golfers in India develop their skills, abilities, and temperament to face the competition and handle tournament pressure.

# CLUB ROUND-UP

To share news on your club or updates from across the country, please email [karthik@rnsportsmarketing.com](mailto:karthik@rnsportsmarketing.com)

## JAMMU

### Golf Course Continues Plantation Drive

Continuing its green initiative, the Jammu Tawi Golf Course management—in collaboration with Mahindra Finance Company (MFC)—held a plantation drive at their golf course late September. The management appreciated the team of MFC headed by HR Manager, Syed Meesan Raza, for donating 200 trees of different species to Jammu Tawi Golf Course. A noble cause that will go a long way in helping preserve the environment.



## PUNE

### Top Honour for Oxford

One of the country's finest, Oxford Golf Resort was recognised as the 'Best Course in India' at the Asian Golf Awards 2018. The ceremony was held on November 3 in Bangkok and golf legend Greg Norman was among those in attendance. "We're honoured to have won this title... We look forward to keeping Pune's flag flying in the golf industry. We've been able to achieve this distinction due to the unwavering trust and support of our patrons and well-wishers, and we hope to keep delivering trained golf professionals for the years to come," said Anil Seolekar (Chairman, Oxford Golf Resort) who received the award along with Neelam Seolekar (Director, Oxford Golf Resort).

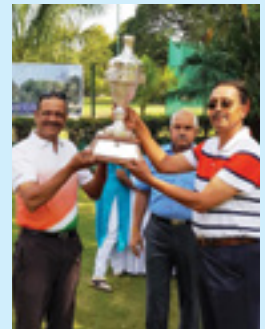


Anil Seolekar (L) and Neelam Seolekar (R) receive the award

## PUNE

### Pusalkar Wins Army Cdr's Cup

Southern Star Training Area & Sports Complex played host to Army Cdr's Cup Golf Tournament on October 27-28. The event witnessed enthusiastic attendance with 223 golfers teeing off, including seven ladies and three children. At 87, Maj Gen PK Joglekar, PVSM (Retd) was the oldest participant. Capt Rajiv Pusalkar (Retd) won the Army Cdr's Cup with a gross score of 69.



## GURGAON

### Hamoni To Organise Carnival

Following the success of the inaugural Winter Golf Carnival in 2017, Hamoni Golf Camp is set to host the second edition this month. The Carnival is an initiative to bring leading golf brands who can then display and promote equipment, merchandise and accessories. Participating brands include Callaway, Cleveland Golf, Footjoy, Golf Garage India, Mizuno, Srixon, Titleist and XXIO.



#### DETAILS

Date December 15-16, 2018  
Time 7:00am to 6:00pm  
Venue Hamoni Golf Camp, Gurgaon

**KASHMIR**

**Farooq Abdullah and Shiv Kapur Tee Off At Invitational**

Member of Parliament Farooq Abdullah inaugurated the 7th JKGA Autumn Golf Odyssey at Pahalgam Golf Course on October 20. The second leg of the two-day event, jointly organized by Department of Tourism Kashmir and J&K Golf Association, took place the following day at Royal Springs Golf Course in Srinagar. Over 100 golfers from across the country took part and also in attendance was ace golfer and three-time Asian Tour winner Shiv Kapur.



**BENGALURU**

**Chief Execs' Day Out**

IIM alumni (batch of 1985; pictured below, in order) Bharat Wakhlu, Milind Patwardhan, Kishore Degwekar, Rajiv Maliwal, Manoj Mittal, Narain Mahtani and Ramakrishnan Chandrasekaran got together recently to enjoy a few rounds of golf in scenic courses around Bengaluru—at Clover Greens, KGA and Prestige Golfshire.



**GURGAON**

**DLF Wins Order of Zenith Award**

Home to a couple of prestigious Asian and European Tour professional tournaments, DLF Golf & Country Club won the coveted Asia Pacific Order of Zenith by Asia Pacific Golf Group at the Asian Golf Awards. The ceremony—which witnessed attendance by delegates from over 22 countries—was part of the 2018 Asia Pacific Golf Summit, staged from November 1-3 in Bangkok. DLF Golf & Country Club also won 'Best Locker Room' award while Aakash Ohri, Senior Executive Director of DLF5, was announced Asia Pacific Personality of the Year.



**NOIDA**

**Anika Stars in Amateur Championship**

The 5th Amateur Ladies Golf Championship was played in Noida Golf Course on November 14-15. The tournament was a two-day Gross event and in the first day had a Stableford round as well.

Around 90 ladies from across India participated. Golfers from clubs such as Air Force Golf Course, Army Golf Course, Chandigarh Golf Course, Delhi Golf Club, DLF Golf & Country Club, Jaypee Greens Golf Course, Qutab Golf Course and Royal Calcutta Golf Course among others bonded over their common love for the game.

Among the participants was 14-year-old Anika Varma, currently India's No. 1 Amateur Lady Golfer, who was declared Champion of the tournament.

**GURGAON**

**HDFC BANK GOLF CLINIC SEES ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION**



HDFC Bank hosted a clinic for select clientele at Leela-Ambience Golf Greens, Gurgaon on October 26. Reputed coach Amandeep Johl offered valuable tips for those in attendance.





# NATURE VALLEY

## A SNACK THAT'S PAR FOR THE COURSE.



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### DELICIOUS NATURAL RECHARGE

**MUMBAI**

**LEARNING TOGETHER; GROWING TOGETHER**



Kotak Mahindra Bank planned and organised a series of golf clinics for employees during select weekends in October and November at Bombay Presidency Golf Club, Mumbai



# isha Golf Jaunt

# with Sadhguru



## PLAY GOLF FOR A CAUSE WITH SADHGURU

At the Oxford Golf Resort,  
Pune - 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2018

Isha Golf Jaunt is a unique golf match where business leaders and professional golfers swing their clubs with Sadhguru for Isha Vidhya and rural education in our country.



Isha Vidhya runs 9 rural schools in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, creating a bright future for 8,132 children. It is also

carrying out critical interventions in 3,032 rural government schools in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, benefiting over 130,000 children and 10,500 Govt. teachers.

**Your love for golf can send a child to school.**

To participate, please contact Parul Shah - +91 98214 31647; [golf.west@ishavidhya.org](mailto:golf.west@ishavidhya.org)

VISIT [isha.sadhguru.org](http://isha.sadhguru.org) | [ishavidhya.org](http://ishavidhya.org)



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Take it easy!

# India To Host Major International Golf Summit In 2019



One of the world's most highly regarded summits on the business of golf will be coming to India in 2019. The Asia Pacific Golf Summit (APGS), the longest running golf business conference in the Asia Pacific will be staged at the prestigious DLF Golf & Country Club in Gurgaon in November 2019.

The staging of APGS 2019 will mark its thirteenth edition and the Summit has come to be recognised as one of the finest events of its kind in the world.

"This is the first time that the Summit is headed to the Indian Sub-Continent and it makes good sense to have India as the host nation because it marks a historic milestone especially when you consider the fact that golf was introduced to the country in 1829 with the establishment of the Royal Calcutta Golf Club, the oldest golf club outside Britain," said Mike Sebastian, chief executive officer and the owner and producer of the Summit.

For the past twelve years, APGS has been the go-to business summit for the golf industry in the Asia Pacific region. In that time, most of the great legends of golf have spoken at the Summit and included amongst them are the likes of Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Greg Norman, the late Peter Thomson, Arnold Palmer, Annika Sorenstam and other luminaries of the game.

One of the key considerations of APGS being brought to India is predicated by the fact that India has now gained global recognition through world-class professional players like Anirban

Lahiri, Shubhankar Sharma and Aditi Ashok who ply their game on the world's toughest professional tours, namely the PGA Tour and the LPGA Tour. Combined with the rise of Indian stars is the fact that some of India's golf courses are among the world's best with DLF Golf & Country Club in Gurgaon being awarded the Asia Pacific Order of Zenith which is the highest honour that is bestowed upon a golf club in the region.

"We are very proud to have received the Order of Zenith Award at the 2018 Asian Golf Awards because this serves as the absolute validation of our constant quest to set the highest standard of excellence at DLF Golf Club," said Aakash Ohri, Senior Executive Director-Business Development, DLF Home Developers Ltd.

The Asian Golf Awards is globally recognised as the 'Oscars' for the golf industry and this year, Ohri was named Golf Personality of The Year while Vishal Bharti, General Manager of DLF Golf & Country Club, was inducted into the Legion Of Leaders, an elite group of the best golf managers in the Asia Pacific.

APGS 2019 is expected to draw more than 400 international and Indian delegates and negotiations are now underway to bring in a few major golf legends and announcements will be made in due course.

"We expect only the best from India and we are highly optimistic that APGS 2019 will be the best Summit in the series and everyone in the golf industry is excited to make the trip to India," concluded Sebastian.

**"WE ARE VERY PROUD TO HAVE RECEIVED THE ORDER OF ZENITH AWARD AT THE 2018 ASIAN GOLF AWARDS BECAUSE THIS SERVES AS THE ABSOLUTE VALIDATION OF OUR CONSTANT QUEST TO SET THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AT DLF GOLF CLUB"**

— **AAKASH OHRI**, SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DLF HOME DEVELOPERS LTD.

**WE ARE HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC THAT APGS 2019 WILL BE THE BEST SUMMIT IN THE SERIES AND EVERYONE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY IS EXCITED TO MAKE THE TRIP TO INDIA"**

— **MIKE SEBASTIAN**, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, APGS

# Asian Tour Backs Habitat for Humanity Initiatives



**H**abitat for Humanity and Asian Tour joined hands once again to champion the cause of affordable housing for underprivileged families in India.

At this year's Panasonic Open India, a Pro-Am tournament was played in support of Habitat for Humanity India on October 23 at Delhi Golf Club.

The event witnessed a cross-section of professional golfers such as Miguel Carballo (Argentina), Lionel Weber (France), former India cricketers Murali Kartik and S Badrinath and business leaders like R. Gopal (Managing Director, Goodrich-Maritime), Arjun Nohwar (Head - Asia Pacific - Uber for Business, Uber) and Yvo Metzelaar (Managing Director, Pressto India).

"It was not just another game of Golf, this was an opportunity to transform the lives of people who lack basic amenities such as a decent home or access to a toilet...," said Kartik.

Habitat for Humanity India also hosted a silent auction of golf-related memorabilia and unique experiences. The proceeds will help build decent shelter and sanitation for vulnerable communities such as the farmers' widows,

families affected by the Kerala floods, families living with disabilities and diseases like HIV AIDS.

"The need for safe and affordable housing for families is particularly pressing in Asia, especially with immense population growth amidst limited city space... We are proud to support and share the philosophy that through shelter, we can empower," said Asian Tour COO Cho Minn Thant.

Prior to winning his first Tour title at Panasonic Open India, India's Khalin Joshi contributed by imparting leadership and life lessons that are engrained in golf to Habitat India's 11 youth leaders through a Golf clinic held on October 27.

On October 29, Tour golfers Udayan Mane, Koh Deng Shan along with Thant and the Tour staff partnered Habitat India to build a home for Sheela Devi and Shabnam Khaled in Begumpur, New Delhi

"I am deeply moved... This home is our dream and these eminent personalities are helping us realise our dream," said Devi. Widowed ten years ago, she lives in a dilapidated house with her two sons and one daughter. Her battle with HIV does not weaken her resolve to build

a better future. Shabnam, who is hard of hearing, is also determined to improve her children's lives.

"It was humbling... I hope the golfing community continues to make a difference to the lives people like Sheela and Shabnam," said Mane.

Rajan Samuel, Managing Director, Habitat for Humanity India said, "... The Pro-Am tournament, the subsequent auction and the Build with Habitat India are integral to our vision of building a world where everyone has a decent place to live. We are grateful towards Asian Tour, the entire golfing community and all the business leaders who came out to support Habitat for Humanity."



# Titleist Pro V1 Records 3,000th Win On Tour

Titleist celebrated a monumental milestone for the Pro V1 golf ball at the \$7.5 million Nedbank Golf Challenge (November 8-11), notching up its 3,000th win since launch in 2000 at the Invensys Classic at Las Vegas.

This historic week for the brand came in Sun City, South Africa, as Pro V1x player Lee Westwood returned to the winner's circle for the first time since the Indonesian Masters in April 2015.

The victory marked Westwood's 24th career win on the European Tour and his 43rd worldwide, all of which have come with a Titleist golf ball.

Since 2000, the Titleist Pro V1 has consistently led the way as the most used golf ball on the worldwide tours.

This latest milestone comes in a year which has also seen Titleist golf balls dominate all the men's Majors. The season culminated at the USPGA Championship, with Brooks Koepka (a non-contracted player) using a Pro V1x, which signalled a run of seven consecutive Majors won with a Titleist golf ball, and a run stretching back to the US Open in 2017.



## 'Shark' named Vietnam Tourism Ambassador

Greg Norman has been named Vietnam Tourism Ambassador as his golf course design firm serves in an advisory role to create and promote sustainable golf course tourism and development practices in-country.

In an on-going effort to promote tourism in Vietnam, the Vietnamese Council of Ministers which includes the Minister of Culture, Sport and Tourism voted unanimously to elect World Golf Hall-of-Fame member and entrepreneur Norman as the Tourism Ambassador.

In his role, Norman and his team from Greg Norman Golf Course Design (GNGCD) will contribute to several growth initiatives to be implemented by the Vietnamese Government to expand infrastructure and resort properties into new territories within the country.

Norman and his team will advise the Government on how best to utilise golf as a platform for enhancing the growth of international tourism, assist in establishing a comprehensive environmental policy for golf development and maintenance, assist in facilitating relationships with the international governing organisations in golf, the development of new golfers and enhancing the popularity of golf in Vietnam.

"I am honoured and privileged to have the opportunity to be a part of the development and success of the emerging golf tourism market in Vietnam and to use what I have learned over 40 years in golf, business and working alongside governments to help build a model of sustainable growth and development," said Norman.

This appointment comes at a time when Vietnam's tourism growth is emerging as



one of the fastest globally, listed in the Top 10 in the world according to a United Nations World Tourism Organisation Report. The golf tourism market in Vietnam is set to become a billion-dollar industry by 2020.

## Marrakech to Host 2019 International Golf Travel Market

International Golf Travel Market (IGTM) has announced that the 22nd edition of IGTM will be hosted in the Moroccan city of Marrakech.

Morocco, the IAGTO 2015 Golf Destination of the Year in Africa and Gulf States, will welcome IGTM to Marrakech, from October 14-17, 2019.

The fast-emerging golf destination, which welcomed more than 11 million tourists in 2017, now boasts 23 golf courses, including the award-winning Assoufid Golf Club, Marrakech, recognised as the 'Best in Africa' at the 2017 World Golf Awards.

Morocco has also been a host destination to the Hassan II Trophy, a European Tour event hosted by Prince Moulay Rachid, since 2010.

Mustapha Zine, Deputy Chairman of the Royal Moroccan Federation of Golf (FRMG), said: "The development of the golf product in Morocco is not only an asset of promotion for the Kingdom, but also an activity to generate jobs.

"Golf in Morocco already employs 2,700 people, and another 1,000 jobs will be created upon completion of the planned golf course developments."

IGTM, organised by Reed Travel Exhibitions, attracts more than 400 buyers and over 550 golf travel suppliers, highlighting its reputation as the premier event for the golf tourism industry.

## Japan to host country's first official PGA TOUR event

The PGA TOUR and ZOZO, Inc.—which operates the largest Japanese online fashion website “ZOZOTOWN”—announced a six-year agreement that establishes the first annual, official PGA TOUR tournament in Japan. The ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, which will be co-sanctioned by the Japan Golf Tour Organization (JGTO), is set to debut at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club the week of October 21, 2019, during the opening segment of the 2019-20 PGA TOUR FedExCup Season.

The ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, with a Japan-record purse of \$9.75 million, will become part of the TOUR's swing through Asia, joining THE CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES in Korea and World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions in China. The CIMB Classic in Malaysia no longer will be on the PGA TOUR schedule, as CIMB is realigning its sponsorship with the TOUR.

“... Japan's passion for golf is widely recognized and something our stars have experienced first-hand through various events held here and the support of standout PGA TOUR players like champion Hideki Matsuyama. Today's announcement further strengthens our presence in Asia and certainly comes at an opportune time with golf set to follow its highly successful return to the Olympics in Rio when



Ty Votaw (EVP, PGA TOUR) and Yusaku Maezawa (CEO, ZOZO Inc.)

Tokyo hosts the 2020 Games,” said Ty Votaw, PGA TOUR Executive Vice President, International.

The ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP field will consist of 78 professionals, including 60 available players from the previous season's FedExCup points list, 10 designated by the JGTO and eight special exemptions.

## Impact of Ryder Cup within France

The decision to host the 2018 Ryder Cup at Le Golf National, Paris was made in 2011, when the French bid beat interest from Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Germany and the Netherlands.

While viewed as a footballing nation, France's love for the game of golf is immense although their last major champion, Arnaud Massy, won The Open Championship in 1907. The country is home to around 700 golf courses (seventh-highest in the world, in terms of number of golf courses) and is one of the most picturesque destinations for tourists. Golf Digest India looks at some key points following this year's Ryder Cup, successful not just for victorious Europe but the host nation as well.



### KEY TAKEAWAYS POST RYDER CUP

- 1 Partnerships had been established with Atout France,** the organization set up by the Ministry of Tourism to promote France as a golf tourism destination. A study from *Ernst & Young* estimated benefit of over €1.5 billion per year, growing significantly through golf tourism (estimated stay of one night and one round of golf in France); a golf tourist spends almost 60% more than the regular tourist
- 2 U.S. Ryder Cup team donated over \$2.85 million to community outreach and Youth Golf Development programs in France**
- 3 A total of 100 small urban (over \$1.5 billion investment) or peri-urban golf structures, Practice Pitch and Putt, 9-hole courses have put golf in the centre of the cities of France and offer easy and inexpensive initiation formulae to attract new audiences; nearly 40,000 new licensed golfers registered as having started golf in such structures**
- 4 Golf discovery operations have been set up during all these years in the heart of cities, in shopping centres, malls and on beaches to show and introduce golf to all audiences**
- 5 Outreach operations for young audiences were also set up through *My Golf Book*; more than 30,000 throughout France used educational programmes with golf as a support for teaching subjects such as mathematics, geography, French and English**

# OFF THE COURSE

CORPORATE GOLFERS AND AFICIONADOS OF THE SPORT WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE NEWS LATELY...

**SHIN NAKAJIMA, TATA HITACHI CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY COMPANY (THCM)**

**Committed to development**

Under Shin Nakajima's directorship, THCM has embraced challenges and delivered global excavation and haulage solutions to suit Indian conditions. The firm has been at the forefront of sustainable development for decades. But with advancement in technology also comes the requirement for skilled personnel. Commenting on the topic recently, Nakajima said, "Tata Hitachi is committed to skill development to improve employability and social upliftment. The India opportunity presents a large volume of development pending to be addressed in infrastructure and mining... To meet this challenge, we have set up Skill Development Centres and Operator Training Schools at Kharagpur and Dharwad".



Nakajima happens to be an amateur golfer, often seen at World Corporate Golf Challenge. His handicap is 15 while his home club is Karnataka Golf Association (KGA). Nakajima also scored a hole-in-one earlier this year at Prestige Golfshire.

**MOHIT TALWAR, MAX FINANCIAL SERVICES (MFS)**  
**Firm announces Q2 FY2019 results**  
 MFS, the holding company of Max Life Insurance—the country's largest non-bank-owned life insurer—reported 18% growth in consolidated revenues over the previous year. Speaking to *Business Standard*, Managing Director Mohit Talwar reiterated the company's focus, "The impressive growth in Embedded Value and Value of New Business reflects strong fundamentals in the existing business and a continued focus on profitable new business..."  
 A keen golfer, Talwar's handicap is 15 and his home club is the scenic DLF Golf & Country Club is Gurgaon. He has taken part in many a prestigious charity and corporate golf events such as Madhavrao Scindia Golf Tournament, World Corporate Golf Challenge and MercedesTrophy.



**PRATHMESH MISHRA, DIAGEO INDIA**  
**Beverage firm introduces limited-edition scotch whisky**

In the build-up to the season finale of the hugely popular television series *Game of Thrones*, Johnnie Walker—one of Diageo's most famous brands—announced the new White Walker by Johnnie Walker: a limited-edition scotch whisky inspired an iconic character from the show.

Diageo India's COO is Prathmesh Mishra, a keen golfer. The 23-handicapper is a regular at corporate golf tournaments, having most recently played at the World Corporate Golf Challenge earlier this year. Mishra has also participated in MercedesTrophy. His home club is DLF Golf & Country Club.



# PLAY FOR A CAUSE

Habitat for Humanity is the  
Sustainable Development Partner  
of the Asian Tour



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\*All proceeds from the tournament will go towards School Sanitation, Health & Education,  
Behaviour Change Communication and Rebuilding Lives of Farmers' Widows

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[www.habitatindia.org](http://www.habitatindia.org)



L-R: R. Madhavan, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chitrangada Singh



Srinivas Vallabhaneni and pro golfer Sharmila Nicollet

# GOLF GLAMOUR GLORY

In its fourth edition, Krishnapatnam Port Company Limited Golden Eagles Golf Championship (GEGC) saw more than 500 golfers from across India take part. The vision of KPCL Managing Director Chinta Sasidhar has seen the tournament bring in a much-needed dose of glamour into the sport, and set new standards for combining sport and entertainment. The invite-only spectacle was a rendezvous of some of the KPCL's partners and top clientele. And joining them were the likes of cricket legends Brian Lara, Kapil Dev and Venkatesh Prasad, actors R. Madhavan, Chitrangada Singh, Tamannaah Bhatia and Urvashi Rautela, reputed television presenters Mandira Bedi and Mayanti Langer, and renowned European entertainers Jimmy Sax and DJ Cruz to name a few. Top women's professionals

Sharmila Nicollet and Ashlan and Taylor Ramsey added to the already high Glam Quotient. And the presence of dignitaries such as Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba, the President of India's son Prashant Kovind and Hyderabad businessman P.P. Reddy further highlighted the stature of the event.

Chinta Sasidhar (MD, KPCL) has been a trailblazer when it comes to promoting golf in India. While corporate tournaments have kept happening over the past three decades, it hasn't taken GEGC long to establish itself as an event that blends golf with unprecedented levels of glitter and excitement.

The toast of corporate golfers, GEGC 2018 was organised in pristine golf courses across four cities. Prestige Golfshire, Bengaluru played host to the first leg on before action moved to Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club, Hyderabad. Oxford Golf



**THE LEGEND**  
Brian Lara was among the celebrities present at GEGC 2018





**STAR STRUCK**  
Mayanti Langer was among the high-profile names present at GEGC 2018



L-R: Dimple Dabas, Col Ramesh Kumar, Nisha Bhakar and Chinta Sasidhar



1983 Cricket World Cup hero Kapil Dev



Resort, Pune then witnessed the third stretch tee off while the ultra-exclusive DLF Golf & Country Club, Gurgaon set the stage for the final leg.

Prizes on offer included Bushnell GPS watches, TaylorMade M4 drivers, iPhone XS's, Rolex timepieces and much more.

Lara was among the first to openly express his admiration. "I've played in corporate golf days, charity golf events and celebrity Pro-Ams all over the world and can honestly say that Golden Eagles is on par with the very best events in the world," said the globetrotting celebrity from Trinidad.

The 'Haryana Hurricane' Kapil Dev also added, "Sashi and his team organise the event with so much attention to detail and passion that everyone who has experienced Golden Eagles will agree that there is nothing else in Indian golf that comes close to this standard. It is great to see the sport of golf being projected with this kind of grand style."



Aakash Ohri



Bollywood star Tamannaah Bhatia



K Venkatesham and Anil Yendluri



L-R: Gabrijela Nikolic, Chinta Sasidhar and Sharmila Niccollet



**STARS SHINE**  
The invite-only event saw a host of celebrities take part in all four cities





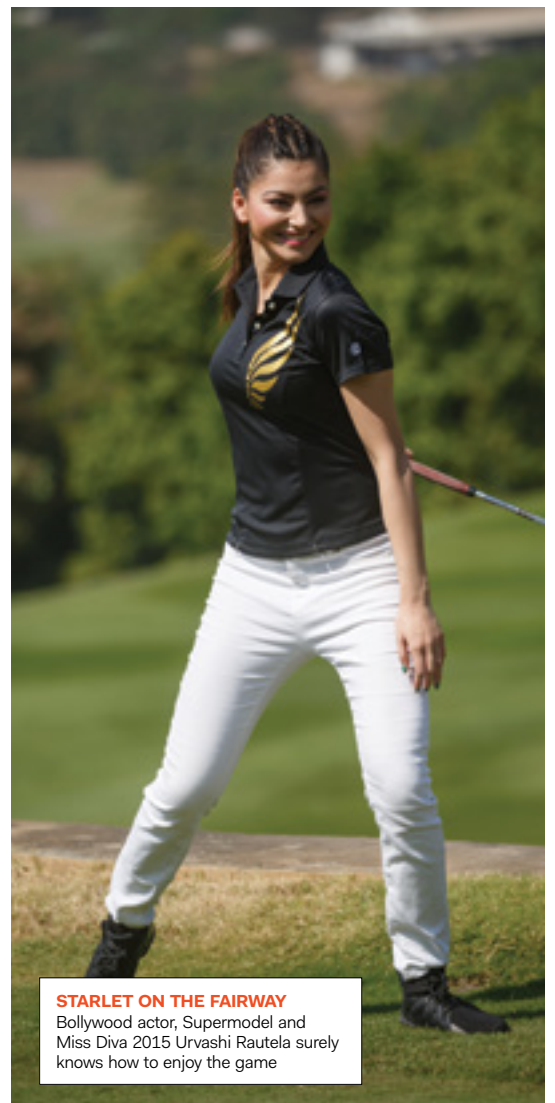
**VROOM!**  
A Maserati on display



**L-R:** Amateur golfer Taylor Ramsey, Gabrijela Nikolic and pro golfer Ashlan Ramsey



Taylor Ramsey and Donghwan Oh



**STARLET ON THE FAIRWAY**  
Bollywood actor, Supermodel and Miss Diva 2015 Urvashi Rautela surely knows how to enjoy the game



**NON-STOP MUSIC WHEN**  
DJ Cruz in da house



Kapil Dev

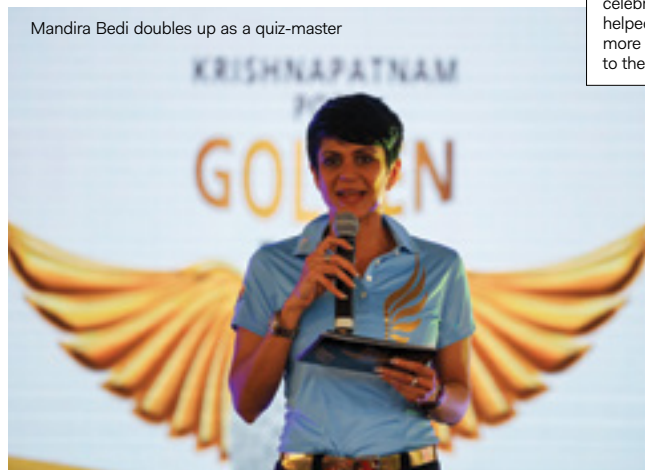


Chinta Sasidhar and Brian Lara



**GLAM QUOTIENT**  
Over the years, celebrities have helped bring in more audiences to the sport

Gabrijela Nikolic and Chitrangada Singh engage the audience



Mandira Bedi doubles up as a quiz-master



Mayanti Langer: seamlessly switching from cricket to golf



Sharmila Nicollet

**GOOD ONE!**  
Ladies have some fun on the golf course



Gurjer Maya



**SAY HELLO TO**  
R. Madhavan the golfer



**L-R:** Andrew Lin, Hyung Tae Kim, Taylor Ramsey, Sharmila Nicollet, Yasuhiko Maeda and Brian Lara



Mandira Bedi strikes a pose



Did you know Brian Lara can play golf left-handed and right-handed?



Gabrijela Nikolic and Vinita Venkatesh



Chinta Sasidhar tees off at GEGC 2018



Manish Motwani and Srinivas Vallabhaneni





Panasonic Open India 2018 champion Khalin Joshi (L) joined the extravaganza in Hyderabad



**ALL SMILES ON DECK**  
Participants had a memorable time and the camaraderie was unmissable



L-R: Admiral Robin Dhowan, Chief of Naval Staff  
Admiral Sunil Lanba and Taylor Ramsey



Chinta Sasidhar and Sharmila Nicollet

# Inaugural IACC Event A Big Success



L-R: Debolina Mukherjee, Salil Murthy, Prabhkaran Lalli, Ashish Chandio (sitting), Jim Booth, Scott McLeod, Sonia Khattar, Kyung Hee Son, Rahul Ahuja, Mohit Talwar, Sushant Khanna, Rishi Narain and Hritik Gandhi

With the aim of fostering business growth between India and USA, businessmen and C-suite executives from across the country participated in the inaugural IACC-Sky Mansion Golf Invitational at ITC Classic Golf & Country Club on November 4. **Admiral Sunil Lanba (Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy) was the chief guest.**

More than 100 golfers took part. Some of the notable participants included Mohit Talwar (MD, Max India), Raj Jain (CEO, Bennett Coleman and Co.), Mandeep Rathi (MD, Standard Chartered Bank), Nilanjan Roy (CFO, Bharti Airtel Global), K.K. Saberwal (Director Finance, Delhi Metro), Jim Booth (COO, British Council), Salil Murthy (Country Head, General Mills India), Aubrey Carlon (Deputy US Ambassador to India), Tony Hughes (First Secretary, Australian High Commission) and Jake Thomas (Second Secretary, Canadian High Commission) among others.

“We are delighted with the response to the first edition of the IACC-Sky Mansion Golf Invitational,” said S.K. Sarkar, National President, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce. “We look forward to this annual edition and building this up to become the most sought-after tournament—the highlight of the golfing season.”



S. K. Sarkar (National President, IACC)



L-R: Karan Arora, Ricky Brown, Joseph O'Neil, Admiral Sunil Lanba



Shobhit Charla



L-R: Samuel Bullard, Salil Murthy, S.K. Sarkar and Admiral Sunil Lanba



Participants at the dinner; the event was a great platform to network

**Results**

Handicap Category	Winner	Runner-up
0-15	Salil Murthy	Hritik Gandhi
16-19	Manav Sardana	Jim Booth
20-24	Rahul Ahuja	Kyung Hee Sol

**Best gross winner:** Prabhkaran S. Lalli (80 points)  
**Nautica Straightest Drive:** Jayesh Saini (9" from line)  
**Ballantine's Long Drive:** Sushant Khanna (337 yards)  
**Nature Valley Closest to Pin:** Mohit Talwar (6.1" from pin)



L-R: Nilanjan Roy, Aman Sawhney, Manav Sardana, Prateek Pant



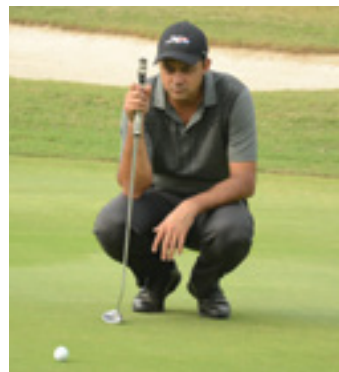
L-R: Punit Beriwalla, Mandeep Rathi, Mudit Saxena and Manoj Sharan



L-R: Rick Newsome, Tracey Newsome, Tony Hughes and David Handley



Mukhmeet Bhatia



Amit Mehrotra



L-R: Vishesh Chandioik, Ashish Chandioik, Chen Xiaoming and Aubrey Carlson



## Prestigious World Final Sees Enthusiastic Participation

Malaysia played host to the 24th World Amateur Golfers Championship (WAGC) World Final, the most prestigious amateur golf tournament in the world. Held from October 20-27, a total of 270 golfers from across the globe participated over six rounds of golf (including two practice rounds) at four renowned golf courses in and around Johor Bahru: Horizon Hills Golf & Country Club, The Forest City Golf Resort, Palm Resort Golf & Country Club and—the most famous of them all—The Els Club, Desaru Coast.

125 golfers participated across five categories in the World Amateur Golfers Championship (WAGC) while 145 participated in the invitational section (WAGI).

The team from Vietnam emerged WAGC winners, followed by those from Singapore and Malaysia. An injury-hit Team India finished 16th. Meanwhile, Vikramajeet Singh Joon from Delhi stood third in WAGI (21-25 handicap category).

Slated for 2019, the 25th edition of WAGC and WAGI will be held at Sabah, a Malaysian state occupying the northern part of the island of Borneo. The Sara Futura Karnataka Golf Festival, which sees over 500 amateur golfers compete, is the official India qualifier for WAGC.



L-R: Uday Kumar, Rohit Agarwal, Raghav Malik, Anmol Khatter, Indur Hirani, Jaipreet Singh Kler, Rahul Chaudhary and Sushant Khanna



Indur Hirani, Captain Indian team, during the flag hoisting ceremony



L-R: Anil Kumar K., Nandan Heblikar, Hritik Gandhi, Milesh Jumburao and Haresh Patel



Vikramajeet Singh Joon (C) finished third in WAGI (21-25 handicap category)

# Hi-life

To share news on your products or updates on new launches, please email [karthik@rnsportsmarketing.com](mailto:karthik@rnsportsmarketing.com)



**DÉCOR**  
**LIGHT UP YOUR CHRISTMAS**

Visionnaire, the uber chic Italian luxury brand, has introduced an exquisite range of lighting from its 2018 collection. The dazzling array showcases sophisticated designs, fine Italian craftsmanship and precious, new-age materials designed by highly acclaimed international designers which include Alessandro La Spada, La Conca, Fabio Bonfà, and Marco Piya.



**DÉCOR**  
**INDIA WELCOMES  
ASHLEY  
FURNITURE**

Dash Square, a premium furniture retail chain in the country, celebrated the India launch of the first Ashley Furniture Homestore in Hyderabad, Telangana. An American brand of repute, Ashley is recognized globally for its innovation and excellence in design. Ashley Furniture is also renowned for its iconic furniture and has long traditions of craftsmanship. Products are now available in India under five lifestyle categories: Urbanology, Vintage Casual, New Traditions, Grand Elegance and Contemporary Living.



## LIQUOR

### IN TIME FOR THE SEASON FINALE

Ahead of the final season of the immensely popular series, Johnnie Walker—in collaboration with HBO and Game of Thrones—unveiled the new White Walker by Johnnie Walker. The limited-edition Scotch Whisky is inspired by the most enigmatic and feared characters on the hit show: the White Walkers.

Created by whisky specialist George Harper, alongside the small team of expert blenders at Johnnie Walker, this innovative whisky is best served directly from the freezer, echoing the chilling presence of the White Walkers.

The Scotch has notes of caramelised sugar and vanilla, fresh red berries with a touch of orchard fruit and features Single Malts from Cardhu and Clynelish—one of Scotland's most Northern distilleries. Harper used the Frozen North as his starting point.

White Walker by Johnnie Walker will be available in India, starting December 2018 until supplies last. It will be priced equivalent to Johnnie Walker Double Black.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### ADDING OOMPH TO AUDIO

The JBL Professional Pro SoundBar PSB-1 addresses the unique requirements of hospitality spaces and even pairs with Samsung 690 Series hospitality TV for a holistic entertainment solution for hotel guest rooms and cruise ship staterooms. The all-in-one design of the Pro SoundBar provides full-range sound without the need for a separate subwoofer, providing excellent quality audio while minimizing sound transfer to neighboring rooms. The soundbar also offers IR Learning, allowing it to “learn” the IR pulse of a TV remote’s volume controls.



## FOOTWEAR

### MAKING A MARK

The Skechers Mark Nason collection has something for everyone as it continues to offer premiums in both, the Formal and Sports variant. From covering Modern Classics that blend the classic styles with exceptional detail and first-class comfort to the effortlessly designed modernised sports-knit collection, they fit the feet for both needs.

The premium range focuses on the following categories:

**Modern Classics (For Men):** Formal to street, premium features include rolled edge stitching, full-grain leather, suede and canvas uppers, with classic branding besides Air-Cooled Memory Foam Lux™ insoles and neoprene heel padding

**SportsKnit (For Men & Women):** A combination of athletic street looks with modern design construction that include Features include lightweight, breathable, and water-resistant knit uppers with hot melt accents along with Air-Cooled Memory Foam Lux™ insoles for increased comfort and elastic stretch laces

**DressKnit (For Women):** The styles are all water-resistant and infused with functional comfort features including its renowned stretchable, knit uppers, along with Air-Cooled Memory Foam Lux™ insoles for cushioning

Price: ₹6,499 onwards



Temoluptas



# JOSHI NOW A PROVEN WINNER ON ASIAN TOUR





**KHALIN JOSHI** is a relieved man, having finally secured his maiden victory in front of a roaring home crowd at the \$400,000 Panasonic Open India (October 25-28) in what was his sixth try since the event was inaugurated in 2011.

The 26-year-old Indian emerged victorious from an enthralling final day battle after firing four birdies in his closing five holes to edge out Siddikur Rahman of Bangladesh, who was his closest rival for the title, and win by one shot.

"You know I am really relieved and really happy. I have come close a few times and a lot of my friends have won this season. To finally seal the deal on home soil is a huge monkey off my back. I have no words to describe how I am feeling," said Joshi, who became the 13th first-time winner this season.

Joshi's conservative approach has served him well at the Panasonic Open India, where he made the cut in three of the past five editions. This year though, he changed his strategy to great effect.

"This year I played very different from the previous years. I have seen many of the past champions going for it in two shots on the par fives, but I have always just taken a more measured approach. You know, that's all I did this week, stuck to my game plan and played aggressively and that's what paid off," added the Indian star, who

moved up to 16th position on the Habitat for Humanity Standings from a previous 23rd place.

The Bengaluru-based Joshi has come a long way since 2016 when he failed to stay inside the top-60 to secure his Asian Tour card. He took a trip back to Qualifying School for the fourth time in 2017 where he would miss the grade in the final stage.

Joshi managed to overcome his disappointment and marked three top-10 finishes that year which included a runner-up finish at the TAKE Solutions Masters, to eventually take 52nd position on the Merit ranks and gain full playing right for the 2018 season.

The Indian was quick to ease off the pressure of retaining his card this year with a tied-fifth finish at the Maybank Championship in February. Since then, he has erased any lingering doubts in his ability, and has been playing with a noticeably different winning mindset.

"Securing my spot for 2019 on the Asian Tour means a lot, because I no longer have to worry about doing enough just to keep my card. Now I can play to win, with a clear mind," said Joshi.



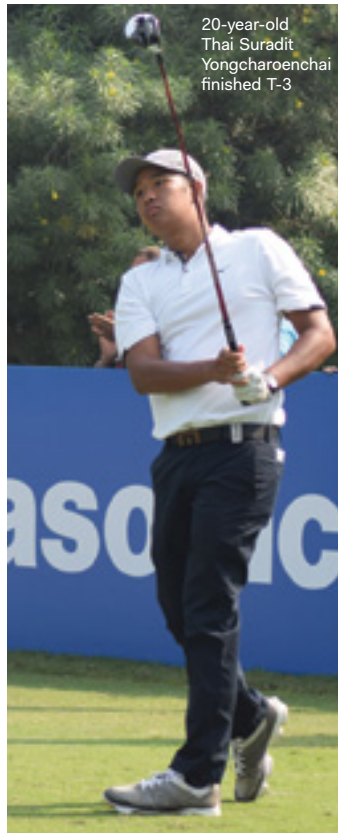
**L-R:** Cho Minn Thant (COO, Asian Tour), Manish Sharma (President & CEO, Panasonic India and South Asia), Khalin Joshi, Uttam Singh Mundy (CEO, PGTI) and Major (Retd.) Ravinder Singh Bedi, VrC (President, DGC)



Runner-up Siddikur Rahman of Bangladesh missed his chance on the final hole



Kshitij Naveed Kaul finished T-6 on his debut with 12-under 276



20-year-old Thai Suradit Yongcharoenchai finished T-3



Aman Raj secured solo 5th at 13-under 275



Ajeetesh Sandhu shot 14-under 274 and secured T-3



Japanese Yutaka Araki secured his career-best finish of T-10 at 10-under 278



L-R: Kshitij Naveed Kaul (T-6), Shiv Kapur (T-24), Viraj Madappa (T-39)

### KAUL SHINES SOON AFTER TURNING PRO

Within weeks of doing duty for the National team at some of the top amateur events around the world, 17-year-olds Aadil Bedi and Kshitij Naveed Kaul and 21-year-old Yuvraj Sandhu chose Panasonic Open India as the platform to take the plunge into the world of professional golf.

While Bedi and Sandhu couldn't make the cut, Kaul felt at home—quite literally, as Delhi Golf Club also happens to be his home club—and finished T-6.

Kaul, one of the most prodigiously talented amateurs in the country who played in the Asian Games in Jakarta, the Eisenhower World Amateur Team Championships in Northern Ireland and the Asia-Pacific Amateurs in Singapore, signalled his arrival as a 15-year-old when he reached the final of the All India Amateurs in December 2015. This year Kaul was the lowest-scoring amateur at the Asian Tour and European Tour co-sanctioned Hero Indian Open in March, where he finished T-32.



# Aaron Rai Prevails In Rain-Soaked Hong Kong



England's Aaron Rai battled through a rain-soaked day to prevail over compatriot Matthew Fitzpatrick by signing for a one-under-par 69 to win the \$2 million HONMA Hong Kong Open presented by Amundi (November 22-25) by one-shot.

Despite holding an overnight six-shot lead, victory at Hong Kong Golf Club was never going to be a straight forward affair especially from a fast-charging Fitzpatrick who was determined to put a dent to Rai's title hopes. However, the 23-year-old wasn't to be denied.

India's Shubhankar Sharma meanwhile extended his lead atop the Habitat for Humanity Standings after signing for a 67 to cap another commendable week by finishing tied for sixth with Spain's Sergio Garcia and Rafa Cabrera-Bello.

"IT WAS TOUGH, BUT AGAIN, I REALLY JUST TRIED TO PLAY THE COURSE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE... THIS WIN IS INCREDIBLE. IT DEFINITELY HASN'T SUNK IN JUST YET. PROBABLY NEED A FEW DAYS FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, BUT IT'S INCREDIBLE TO WIN ON ANY TOUR."



### DID YOU KNOW?

Aaron Rai is one of the very few professional golfers who wear two gloves. He was given a pair when he was eight years old and he started wearing gloves on both hands ever since.

### ANOTHER RECORD FOR RAI

The Englishman has a knack for breaking records. Before breaking the course record at Hong Kong Golf Club with a second-round 61, Rai broke the 'Lee Westwood World Puttmaster Record' by holing 207 consecutive ten-foot putts as a 15-year-old.

# TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY

**O**n August 8, Asian Tour launched the third phase of its #whereitsAT campaign in an effort to celebrate and recognise the limitless potential, youthful exuberance and enthusiasm of the players on Tour.

Themed “Tomorrow’s Stars Today”, a series of videos (supported by feature stories and digital ad campaigns) were rolled out from August 10. The campaign will thrust young champions as well as up-and-coming golfers. It also aims to underline the revitalisation of the Tour and attract a younger

demographic to the sport.

The inaugural story featured 22-year-old Jazz Janewattanond of Thailand, who consolidated his credentials as a rising star of the sport after capturing his second Asian Tour title at the 2018 Queen’s Cup (June 28-July 1).

Asian Tour Chief Operating

Officer Cho Minn Thant said: “Week after week, we continue to see a new and exciting generation of golfers contending on the Asian Tour. The Asian Tour aims to encapsulate the unbridled spirit of these young stars, as well as the development of the organisation through the promotional videos.”

## LETTING HIS GOLF DO THE TALKING

Around October last year, India’s Shubhankar Sharma was coming off three consecutive missed cuts. He posted many good finishes during the season, but he had yet to win an Asian Tour title.

Now, this precocious young man has evolved into a global golf star. He has two victories on Tour, played in all four Major championships and proved that the can compete alongside the world’s elite by posting a couple of top-10s on the PGA TOUR.

The 22-year-old Sharma roused the attention of many fans globally when he went into the final round of the 2018 WGC-Mexico as the 54-hole leader and played alongside five-time Major winner Phil Mickelson. Although he did not win the tournament, he impressed the officials from Augusta National so much that he received a special invitation to the Masters.

Sharma currently leads the Asian Tour Habitat for Humanity Standings by more than US\$130,000, putting him a prime position to win the merit race that concludes at the end of this year.

For his efforts, his country has conferred him the prestigious Arjuna Award for his outstanding contributions to Indian golf.

Indeed, his achievements over the last 12 months have been breath-taking, to say the least.

The 22-year-old Sharma is humbled by his success and he is grateful for the playing opportunities globally. He credits the Asian Tour for giving him the platform to succeed.

“I’m really happy with what has happened to me. The Asian Tour played a big role as the Tour has given me the chance to compete and helped me develop my game to my current level,” explained Sharma.

Sharma, who turned professional at the tender age of 16, left the comforts of home to compete on the Asian Development Tour (ADT) in 2014 after finding success on his local circuit, the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI).

He earned his first Tour card in 2016, when he made the grade at the Qualifying School. Sharma went on to finish 51st on the money list at the end of the year which



Shubhankar Sharma

**“I’M REALLY HAPPY WITH WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME. THE ASIAN TOUR PLAYED A BIG ROLE AS THE TOUR HAS GIVEN ME THE CHANCE TO COMPETE AND HELPED ME DEVELOP MY GAME TO MY CURRENT LEVEL.”**  
—SHUBHANKAR SHARMA

allowed him to retain his card for the following season.

Sharma displayed glimpses of his brilliance early last year when he posted three consecutive top-10s. After a slight mid-season blip, he strung together some consistent results before putting together a career-breakthrough performance at the 2017 Joburg Open.

“It is tough to move out of India and compete internationally, as the conditions are different and you are away from your loved ones. It took me a few years to adapt.

“I played pretty well last year, and I’m very happy to cap off the year with a win. I’m very thankful to have the chance to play on

the Asian Tour,” he enthused.

More often than not, the biggest validation comes from your peers. The reigning CIMB Classic champion Marc Leishman hailed Sharma as an emerging star to look out for after playing two rounds with him.

He said: “Shubhankar’s a great lad. I am sure he learned a lot from these past two days and that’s what it’s all about. Sometimes you learn more from the tournaments that you don’t win. I’m sure he’ll learn and he’s going to go on to big things.”

Going by the trajectory of his progress, you can almost expect to see bigger and better things from Shubhankar Sharma, at a similar time next year.



## MIGHTY MALAYSIAN

It was in 2013 when Gavin Green showed a glimpse of his immense potential which marked the beginning of a defining career on the Asian Tour.

After enjoying a solid year playing for the University of New Mexico, Green accepted a sponsor's invitation to play in the Worldwide Holdings Selangor Masters.

He was still an amateur at the time but Green showed no fear with his booming drives as he headed into the final round just two shots back of the leader.

As fate would have it, the young Malaysian ran into bad luck on the 11th green when he called a penalty on himself after his ball moved at address.

He eventually finished in a share of tied sixth position but many including eventual winner Pariya Junhasavasdikul of Thailand predicted a bright future for the Malaysian.

"I gave him a pat on the back and said that's the true spirit of golf. I said if you didn't call on yourself, no one would have known," said Pariya after his victory. "In two or three years' time, I won't be able to match up with him on the course."

It was a huge lesson for the honest Green but success came to him sooner than imagined when he dominated the 2014 PGM Vascory Templer Park Championship to become the first amateur to win on the Asian Development Tour (ADT).

Two years later, he would claim double victories on the ADT and finish second on the Order of Merit to earn an Asian Tour card for 2017. To add icing on the cake, he also represented Malaysia in the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

In his first full year on the Asian Tour, Green was quick to prove that he belonged among the best. After claiming three runner-up results and one victory at the Mercuries Taiwan Masters, he took his place among a long list of luminaries to win the Asian Tour Order of Merit.

"After 12 months, here we are on top. It is an amazing feeling!" said Green, who had topped the list against other stellar names including Scott Hend, David Lipsky, Phachara Khongwatmai and S.S.P. Chawrasia.

The sky is the limit for Green and at the age of only 24, his success on the Asian Tour is only the beginning of more good things to come.

IN HIS FIRST FULL YEAR ON TOUR, GREEN WAS QUICK TO PROVE THAT HE BELONGED AMONG THE BEST... TAKING HIS PLACE AMONG A LONG LIST OF LUMINARIES TO WIN THE ASIAN TOUR ORDER OF MERIT.

## Habitat for Humanity Standings After Hong Kong Open

POS	PLAYER	EARNINGS (US\$)
1	<b>SHUBHANKAR SHARMA (IND)</b>	<b>755,994</b>
2	SANG-HYUN PARK (KOR)	561,898
3	JUSTIN HARDING (RSA)	424,177
4	<b>GAGANJEET BHULLAR (IND)</b>	<b>422,935</b>
5	SCOTT VINCENT (ZIM)	420,886
6	JOHN CATLIN (USA)	387,932
7	KIRADECH APHIBARNRAT (THA)	372,481
8	SIHWAN KIM (USA)	362,883
9	YUTA IKEDA (JPN)	338,771
10	<b>RAHIL GANGJEE (IND)</b>	<b>302,628</b>
11	MINCHEL CHOI (KOR)	286,555
12	BERRY HENSON (USA)	274,140
13	JAZZ JANEWATTANANOND (THA)	253,308
14	PAUL PETERSON (USA)	241,148
15	ADILSON DA SILVA (BRA)	237,773
16	<b>KHALIN JOSHI (IND)</b>	<b>226,432</b>
17	SHAUN NORRIS (RSA)	201,156
18	PROM MEESAWAT (THA)	189,610
19	DANTHAI BOONMA (THA)	182,158
20	KURT KITAYAMA (USA)	173,104



Gavin Green

Francesco Molinari of Italy with the Race to Dubai trophy at Jumeirah Golf Estates



— RACE TO —  
**DUBAI**



## Molinari Crowned Race To Dubai Champion

Francesco Molinari has completed the season of his life after being crowned Europe's Number One at the DP World Tour Championship, Dubai.



**T**he Italian won his maiden Major Championship in July at The Open, adding to his first Rolex Series victory at the BMW PGA Championship.

Those triumphs coupled with incredibly consistent performances throughout the year meant that only a victory for defending champion Tommy Fleetwood at Jumeirah Golf Estates could possibly deny Molinari the Race to Dubai title.

A closing 68 was not enough to move the Englishman to the summit on the Earth Course and Molinari is now the first Italian to be crowned the European Tour's top player.

"It's incredible," said Molinari. "Now I'm going to have time to sit down and relax and really think back about the last few months."

"This morning on the first tee the announcement is, 'The winner of The Open

*Championship, Race to Dubai leader...,' it doesn't sound real at the moment.*

"It's more than I ever dreamed of achieving. I've seen guys that I think are better players than me not winning Majors and not winning Order of Merits or Race to Dubais. To achieve those things in one single season is just incredible.

"We've been doing very well this year when it comes to the challenges. I never won a Ryder Cup match and I won five out of five. Carnoustie was really not my favourite place before this year, and I go there and win.

"It's tough in a way because it would have been probably easier in a way to play against anyone else but him (Fleetwood). I know how talented he is..."

"He's obviously a great guy and a super talented player and I'm sure being younger than me, he's going to win a few more Race to Dubais."

**FRANCESCO MOLINARI COMPLETED THE SEASON OF HIS LIFE; HE BECAME THE FIRST ITALIAN TO BE CROWNED NO. 1 ON THE EUROPEAN TOUR.**



Danny Willett of England hugs his caddie Sam Haywood following victory in the DP World Tour Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates

Francesco Molinari kisses the trophy after winning the BMW PGA Championship



Francesco Molinari celebrates with the Claret Jug after winning the 147th Open Championship



## Wonderful Willett A Winner Once More

Danny Willett made a triumphant return to the winner's circle as Francesco Molinari was crowned Europe's Number One on a dramatic final day of the \$8 million DP World Tour Championship, Dubai (November 15-18).

Englishman Willett had the world at his feet in April 2016 as he claimed a maiden Major Championship at the Masters Tournament but when he arrived this week at Jumeirah Golf Estates, that remained the last time he had tasted victory.

Injuries and an admitted lack of form saw him drop as low as 462 in the Official World Golf Ranking but a closing 68 in Dubai means he is now a Rolex Series champion and back on the way up.

Willett finished two shots clear of fellow Englishman Matt Wallace and reigning Masters winner Patrick Reed.

In the season after winning the Masters, Willett finished 96th in the Race to Dubai Rankings and in August of 2017 started working with new coach Sean Foley.

He missed five of his first seven cuts this season but a tie for eighth at the Italian Open ignited his campaign and two more Rolex Series top tens were to follow before he claimed European Tour title number six on the Earth Course.

"It's been a lot of hard work," said an emotional Willett. "It's been tough. I'm just massively proud of myself and everyone that's been around me."

"... To happen here at the end of year, we've battled long and hard through this season to come out at the end, regardless of what happened today, a better person and a better athlete. It's a special place."

## Westwood Back In The Winner's Circle In Sun City

Lee Westwood produced a stunning closing 64 to win his first Rolex Series title at the \$7.5 million Nedbank Golf Challenge hosted by Gary Player (November 8-11).



Lee Westwood of England reacts on the 16th green during Day Four of the Nedbank Golf Challenge

**T**he Englishman entered the final day at Gary Player Country Club three shots behind long-time leader Sergio Garcia but an eagle on the second put him at the top of the leaderboard and set up an enthralling three-way battle between those two and local favourite Louis Oosthuizen.

The heavyweight trio went blow-for-blow on one of the most entertaining afternoons of the season and it was former World Number One Westwood who birdied five of his last eight holes to get to 15-under and prevail over his Major winning rivals.

Spaniard Garcia signed for a 70 to finish at 12-under, one shot ahead of Oosthuizen who closed with a 69.

Westwood's triumph is his third at Gary Player Country Club after the Sunshine Tour's Dimension Data Pro-Am in 2000

and this event in 2010 and 2011 before it joined the European Tour International Schedule.

The 45-year old's last victory came at the 2014 Maybank Malaysian Open and he was fighting back tears after taking his tally to a remarkable 24 on the European Tour and 43 worldwide.

"I'm a bit emotional, to be honest," he said. "You're never sure whether you're going to be able to do it again.

"Until now my emotions have felt really under control all day which is what I've been working hard on. I was just trying to hit fairways and stick to my game-plan and hit it in the right places.

"I've got a bit of a process that I'm going through with my golf swing and I'm starting to see better shots. The seven iron into 17 is probably one of the best shots I've ever hit."



Justin Rose of England shakes hands with his caddie after he wins the Turkish Airlines Open at Regnum Carya Golf & Spa Resort

## Rose Rises To The Top Again In Turkey

Justin Rose defeated Li Haotong in a play-off to become the first player to successfully defend a Rolex Series title at the \$7 million Turkish Airlines Open (November 1-4).

The Englishman started the final day three shots behind Li but led by two with four to play as he produced a typically consistent display at Regnum Carya Golf & Spa Resort.

An incredible eagle on the 15th moved Li back level but both men dropped a shot over the last three holes to take it to a play-off at 17 under.

A Li three-putt on the first trip back up the par-four last then handed Rose the victory that moved him back to No. 1.

The victory sees Rose join Jon Rahm and Alex Noren as a multiple Rolex Series winner and represents the first successful title defence of his career.

"It's taken me 20 years to defend a title, I guess, so that's great," he said.

"I've had some pressure-packed Sundays of late, dare I say, coming away with consolation prizes in a way. World Number One after losing in a play-off, finishing fourth but winning the FedExCup. I was keenly aware I wanted to get back in the winner's circle..."

"The fun thing is I still feel like there's improvement to be had and that's what I'm looking for. I'm really looking forward to the off-season to still work at a few things and still get better... More Majors, that's what I'm interested in, trying to chase down as many as I can."

**JUSTIN ROSE'S FIRST SUCCESSFUL TITLE DEFENCE OF HIS CAREER SEES HIM JOIN JON RAHM AND ALEX NOREN AS A MULTIPLE ROLEX SERIES WINNER.**





## Schauffele Claims Dramatic Play-Off Win In China

**X**ander Schauffele beat Tony Finau in a play-off to win his first European Tour title at the \$10 million WGC-HSBC Champions (October 25-28).

Finau entered Sunday at Sheshan International Golf Club with a three-shot lead but Schauffele carded the lowest round of the day with a 68 to reel him in and the duo were

locked together at 14 under after 72 holes.

Schauffele found the green in two on the first trip back up the last and with Finau having to lay up after finding a bunker off the tee, a birdie was enough to hand Schauffele the victory.

Defending champion Justin Rose was right in it throughout the day but had to settle for a 72 after a bogey on the last.

Thai Kiradech Aphibarnrat and American Andrew Putnam were then at eight-under, a shot clear of another American in Keegan Bradley.

Schauffele's victory comes in just his 14th European Tour event and moves the Affiliate Member up to fourth in the Race to Dubai Rankings after top ten finishes at the U.S. Open and Open Championship.

"I felt like I was playing great all day," he said. "We kept our heads down. Even when I was signing my card I was like, 'oh, wow, I actually went birdie-birdie to get in the play-off'. I was just in my own world out there."

"It means a lot, it was my birthday this week. To have my family out here, especially with the win, it's really special."

## Brilliant Garcia Successfully Defends Andalucía Masters title

Local hero Sergio Garcia successfully defended his Andalucía Valderrama Masters hosted by the Sergio Garcia Foundation (October 18-21) title after wrapping up a comfortable four-shot victory.

Garcia had been in possession of a three-shot lead when stormy conditions forced play to be suspended on Sunday night after a series of weather delays on the opening three days at Real

Club Valderrama had already seen the tournament reduced to 54 holes.

The 2017 Masters Champion powered to victory at the €2 million event when play resumed on Monday.

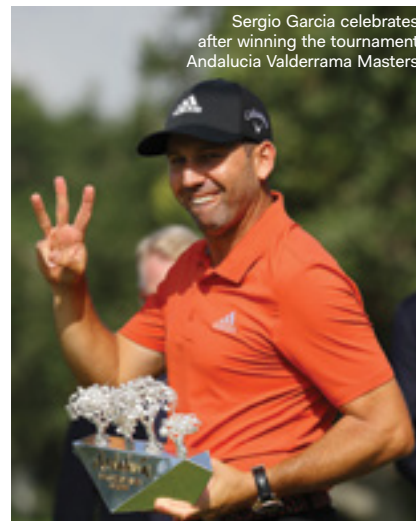
The impressive triumph was Garcia's third in this event, following successes in 2011 and 2017, continuing his love affair with a course he has singled out as being one of his favourites in the world.

Garcia called winning for

the third time at Valderrama a "dream come true".

He said: "It's amazing to be able to win here at Valderrama three times - it's a dream come true."

"It's so difficult. This golf course is so challenging and for me to be able to go out there in the conditions we played in all week and shoot three rounds under par means a lot. I'm very proud of that and really excited about the week."



Sergio Garcia celebrates after winning the tournament Andalucía Valderrama Masters



## European Tour Announces Expansive Global Schedule For 2019

**T**he elevation of Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship presented by EGA to a Rolex Series event and the continuation of the British Masters with Ryder Cup hero Tommy Fleetwood as host at Hillside Golf Club are two of the many highlights of the 2019 European Tour International Schedule.

Once again, the expansive 12-month schedule from November 2018 to November 2019 emphasises the global nature of the European Tour with 48 tournaments in 31 countries spanning five continents: Europe, Asia, Africa, Australasia and North America.

As in 2018 there are 47 tournaments counting towards the Race to Dubai; in addition to the return of the inventive GolfSixes for its third staging in June. This total includes the eight tournaments which form the Rolex Series events, the premier tournament category on the European Tour, each of which has a minimum prize fund of \$7 million.

The Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship has long been recognised as one of the stand-out tournaments on the European Tour and its elevation to the Rolex Series—with an associated prize fund rise from \$3 million to \$7 million—now properly reflects that.

While the Rolex Series tournaments in Ireland and Scotland retain their July date and those in Turkey, South Africa and Dubai remain in November, there are changes for the BMW PGA Championship which moves from May to September, and the Italian Open which moves from June to October.

Other tournaments to alter their 2019

dates include Open de France, which moves from June to October; and Andalucía Valderrama Masters, which moves from October to June.

In terms of dates, Tommy Fleetwood will have an eye on the second week of May when he follows in the footsteps of his fellow countrymen Ian Poulter, Luke Donald, Lee Westwood and Justin Rose as the central figure of the British Masters.

"I can't wait to host the British Masters in my home town," said Fleetwood. "It will be such an honour and I'm so grateful to have been asked..."

The British Masters hosted by Tommy Fleetwood will mark the European Tour's first visit to Hillside Golf Club (in his native Merseyside) since 1982 when Tony Jacklin won the Sun Alliance PGA Championship (precursor to the BMW PGA Championship).

As always, innovation remains an integral part of any European Tour season and in addition to the third staging of GolfSixes—which will be held in Portugal this time—the pioneering Shot Clock Challenge is also set to return in August after its ground-breaking debut earlier this year, as will the Belgian Knockout at the end of May.

Without question one of the major successes of this year's GolfSixes was the introduction of women professionals into the format and the concept remains prominent on the European Tour in 2019.

In addition to GolfSixes, men and women professionals will play together at the

Trophee Hassan II tournament in Morocco in April as well as at Vic Open in Australia in February, which makes its debut on the European Tour.

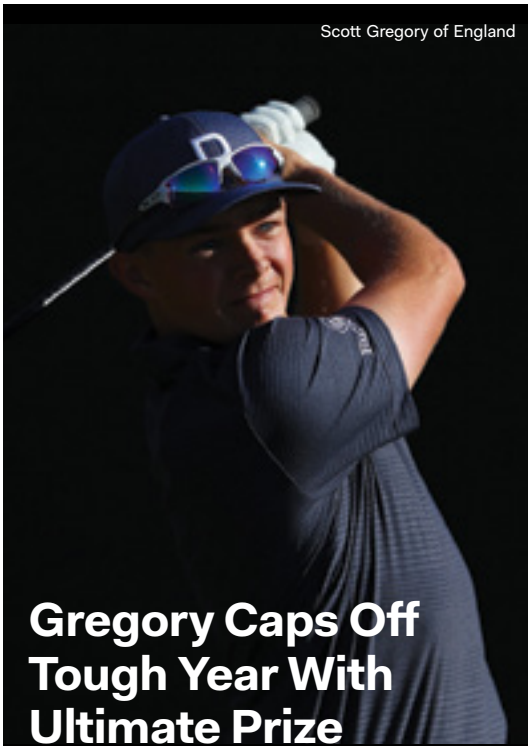
The AUD\$3 million tournament is Australia's richest and sees men and women professionals play on the same course at the same time for an equal share of the prize fund. Preceding yet another innovative tournament on the schedule—ISPS Handa World Super 6 Perth—this represents the first time the European Tour has staged back-to-back tournaments in Australia since 2004.

Another example of back-to-back tournaments in the same country comes at the end of this calendar year when the South African Open hosted by the City of Johannesburg precedes the Alfred Dunhill Championship at Leopard Creek, a tournament which makes a welcome return to the European Tour International Schedule after a year's hiatus.

Kenya will become the third African country to feature on the European Tour in 2019, when the Kenya Open commences at Karen Country Club in Nairobi in March. The tournament is stepping up from the Challenge Tour where it has featured since 1991.

Keith Waters, Chief Operating Officer of the European Tour, said: "We are delighted with our 2019 International Schedule which illustrates precisely what we are all about; namely a Tour which delivers a significant breadth and scope of global coverage in addition to taking a leading role in innovation and transformation..."

Scott Gregory of England



## Gregory Caps Off Tough Year With Ultimate Prize

An emotional Scott Gregory capped off a tough year by earning full European Tour status after finishing as one of 27 graduates from European Tour Qualifying School Final Stage at Lumine Golf Club.

The young Englishman posted a 19-under par total after six rounds to finish tied ninth and secure playing privileges on the top tier for the 2019 season.

Gregory carded a 92 in the opening round of this year's U.S. Open and was subsequently subjected to online abuse before suffering a near season-ending injury. But the 24-year-old has come out the other side better for the experience and now has a full season on the European Tour to look forward to.

"It's been a tough year with injury and I didn't have my best day at the U.S. Open," he said. "I probably came under some unfair criticism so to do this not only proves it to myself but it proves it to them. It keeps a lot of people quiet..."

Gregory has completed all 252 holes of Qualifying School after progressing through First Stage, Second Stage and the marathon six-round Final Stage and he believes the key was to, at times, keep his mind off golf.

"... I was mentally drained coming into this so just chilled out and took my time. I didn't do much practice between rounds and it seems to have paid off."

After not playing as much as he would've liked on the Challenge Tour this season due to injury, Gregory is hoping to enjoy his maiden year on the European Tour and draw from his experience of playing in the U.S. Open, The Open Championship and the Masters Tournament in recent years.

"... I feel like I've learned enough in the Majors and Tour events that I've played in after winning the amateur events to hopefully take all that and have a good year.

"I've spent all day on the range hitting balls and in the gym and it certainly pays off. It's worth it. I'm immensely proud of myself."



Alejandro Cañizares of Spain and Zander Lombard of South Africa, joint winners

## Lombard And Cañizares Share Top Prize As 27 Graduate To European Tour

Alejandro Cañizares and Zander Lombard shared the spoils on top of the leaderboard at the conclusion of this year's Qualifying School Final Stage as 27 players earned European Tour cards.

Following six rounds at Lumine Golf Club, South Africa's Lombard and Spain's Cañizares could not be separated on 24 under par, and as is customary in the case of a tie in the event, the duo were crowned joint winners with no play-off taking place.

On a day of high drama in Tarragona several players made big moves to secure their playing privileges on the European Tour for 2019. South Africa's Louis de Jager was the first to seal his spot in the top 25 and ties.

Also making late charges into the

European Tour places were Italy's Filippo Bergamaschi and Chile's Hugo Leon.

Three-time European Tour winner Marc Warren bounced back to take the 19th card, while Norwegian Kristoffer Reitan—the only amateur to make the cut this year—also squeezed through.

Former Amateur Champion Scott Gregory, who hit headlines for shooting 92 in the opening round of the U.S. Open five months ago, claimed the 12th card after coming through all three stages of Q-School this year—one of seven players to achieve the feat this season.

# Looking Back, Looking Ahead On The PGA Tour

Reviewing the biggest moments from the 2017-18 season and what's to come in 2019

Forty-eight FedExCup events. Thirty-six winners. Eleven first-time champions. Nine players with multiple victories. Eight international winners. It was a whirlwind season on the PGA TOUR in 2017-18, with fresh faces making their marks, elder statesmen proving they still belong and more than 200 players fighting for the right to hoist the FedExCup. Now, relive the best moments from this past season before golf turns its sights to the biggest storylines for the 2018-19 season.

## Best moments of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR season



### Superhuman Simpson

On its surface, Webb Simpson's four-shot victory at THE PLAYERS Championship might have come off as fairly standard. It's happened plenty of times before.

But for those who managed to catch the entirety of Simpson's four-day spectacle, the sheer domination he showcased made his win all the more impressive. Simpson coasted at TPC Sawgrass, beginning Sunday's final round with a seven-shot lead—the largest in tournament history. His 19-under 197 after 54 holes matched Greg Norman's 1994 record.

"I guess it's over four years without a win, (but) I never doubted myself, but at the same time, that's a long time," Simpson said. "We train hard and practice hard to try to win, and there's been some tough moments along the way, but to come here against this field and put up some good numbers the first three days and do what I needed to do today to get it done, I'm so happy."

### Remarkable Rose

Somewhat lost in the hoopla surrounding Tiger Woods' win at the TOUR Championship was Justin Rose capturing the PGA TOUR's ultimate prize, the FedExCup and its \$10 million reward—beating Woods in the process. Incredibly enough, he did so after rising to No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking the week prior, at the BMW Championship.

"That's PGA TOUR royalty. If you win the FedExCup, that's sort of what it means," Rose said. "I was fortunate enough to win the 2007 European Tour Order of Merit, but there was nothing quite like the intensity of this with the Playoff-style format back then. But whenever you win over the course of a season, it just gives it something extra, it gives it something special. It's very unique."

Rose was a model of consistency in 2017-18, securing top-25 finishes in 15 of his 18 starts, including a career-best 11 inside the top 10, along with three runner-up finishes and one third-place result. He won twice, in his first start of the season at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, and again in May, at the Fort Worth Invitational. He finished runner-up in two of the four FedExCup events and tied for fourth at the season-ending TOUR Championship.

"This opportunity only presents itself if you play very, very good golf for a long period of time through the course of a season, so I'm proud to have taken my chance this year," he said.





### Tiger's TOUR Triumph

It may go down as one of the most defining images in the history of the PGA TOUR: Thousands of fans walking alongside Tiger Woods, in his customary Sunday red, as he approached the 18th green at East Lake Golf Club. The ropes were no match for this fervent gallery, which got an up-close view as the 42-year-old defied the odds for his first PGA TOUR win in five years and the 80th of his career.

Woods had been close a few times before in his comeback season. He tied for second and tied for fifth in back-to-back weeks in March, at the Valspar Championship and Arnold Palmer Invitational, respectively, and was runner-up at the PGA Championship in August. But it was most fitting that the self-proclaimed "walking miracle," he of the four painful back surgeries and countless hours rediscovering his game, would finally win at the season-ending TOUR Championship.

"It's certainly up there with, obviously, all the major championships I've won, PLAYERS, World Golf Championships. But this is under different circumstances," said Woods, who finished second in the FedExCup standings. "You know, I've explained throughout the year that I just didn't know when this would ever happen again. If I could somehow piece together a golf swing this year. But somehow I've been able to do that, and here we are."



### Big-time Brooks

When the calendar soon flips to 2019, Brooks Koepka will be easy to find. Just head to the Florida coast, where you'll almost certainly catch the PGA TOUR Player of the Year laying out the season ahead.

"I keep the same goals through the calendar year," he explained. "On January 1, I go to the beach in the morning and go write down my goals and figure them out for the calendar year."

He's running out of goals to reach.

The 28-year-old made the most of his 2017-18 season, winning a pair of major championships en route to the Player of the Year Award. He was only the fifth player to win the U.S. Open and PGA Championship in the same year, the latter coming thanks to a

tournament record 264.

With his successful 2017 U.S. Open defense, Koepka has now won three of the last six majors he's played in. And he did it all despite missing four months at the beginning of the year with a partially torn tendon in his left wrist.

This season has begun with much of the same success. Koepka won in his first start of the season, at THE CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES, moving to No. 1 in the world in the process.

"It's amazing to go World No. 1 on a win. I think (it) is something I've always wanted to do," he said. "It's something I always wanted, to earn my way to No. 1 in the world, and I felt like if I played and won, that would be exactly how I could draw it up. To do that this week has been special."

## What to watch for in the 2018-19 PGA TOUR season



### Presidential Prayer:

It's been a trying stretch for the Presidents Cup International Team of late. The United States has won each of the last seven match-ups, with the opposition only coming out on top once, in 1998, at Royal Melbourne (the internationals also famously coaxed a 17-17 tie in South Africa five years later).

Can Captain Ernie Els right the ship next December when the event returns to Australia's Royal Melbourne once more? He was at the center of the event's most memorable show-down, when he and Tiger Woods battled into the dark at Fancourt Hotel and Country Club before the match was called. Els has a roster of talented international players who appear primed to challenge the United States, including Hideki Matsuyama, Jason Day and Si Woo Kim. They've all experienced the Presidents Cup in the past and may be ready to upend the favorites.

"As an International Team it's a home field game for us, so we would like to think that we're going to have the majority of the support," Els said. "... I think momentum is a big part in match play, team sport, and I think if we can get some putts moving our direction into the hole, like we did in 1998, I think the crowd can really get behind us a little bit more."



### Welcoming Winners:

Cameron Champ didn't waste much time joining the lengthy list of PGA TOUR winners. It took just eight starts on TOUR—and only two appearances as a full-time member—for the 23-year-old to win, claiming the Sanderson Farms Championship by four strokes.

It should be the first of many for the long-hitting Champ, who averaged 343 yards off the tee in his victory. That was no fluke, either, as he also averaged the same distance last season on the Web.com Tour.

The bigger question is just how many first-time and rookie winners the PGA TOUR will see this season. A host of talented players have arrived in the hopes of challenging golf's biggest stars, and all hope to ink their names into the history books sooner rather than later.

Sungjae Im of South Korea, who led the Web.com Tour money list wire to wire last season, should challenge Sunday leaderboards this season. So, too, should second-year player Joaquin Niemann (Chile), who last year became the youngest player to ever earn TOUR Special Temporary Membership (it took the 19-year-old just five starts to accomplish the feat).

Mexico's Abraham Ancer flirted with the first-round lead several times last season and also seems well positioned to finally break through in his second TOUR season.

Eleven players won a tournament for the first time last season. Will that number rise in 2019?



**Surveying the Schedule:**

Dramatic changes are in store this season, a 46-tournament schedule that offers the FedExCup Playoffs moving from four to three events, a pair of new tournaments and a move back to March for THE PLAYERS Championship.

But it will be the FedExCup Playoffs incurring the biggest changes, and not only from its switch to three events and an August finish. The season-ending TOUR Championship now features a simplified scoring system to determine the FedExCup champion, as a strokes-based bonus system related to the FedExCup standings through the BMW Championship will dictate where a player begins at East Lake.

The FedExCup points leader after the first two Playoffs events will begin the TOUR Championship at 10-under par. The next four players will start at 8-under through 5-under, respectively. The next five will begin at 4-under, regressing by one stroke per five players until those ranked Nos. 26-30 start at even par. With the implementation of this change, the player with the lowest total score will be the FedExCup champion and be credited with an official victory in the TOUR Championship competition.

“Compared to the current system, the beauty here is in the simplicity,” PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan said.

“Fans are very familiar with golf leaderboards in relation to par, so they will have a clear understanding of the impact every shot makes during the final run for the FedExCup—ultimately leading to a singular champion without conflicting storylines.”

Meanwhile, a new \$10 million Wyndham Rewards Top 10 is set to add even more drama to the Wyndham Championship, as the top-10 Regular Season finishers in FedExCup points through the event will take home additional earnings before the Playoffs. The leader will earn \$2 million, followed by \$1.5 million for the runner-up and the 10th-place finisher earning \$500,000. That means a player’s performance every week becomes more critical than ever before.

“Season-long success is tantamount to qualifying for and advancing through the FedExCup Playoffs, and this is an exciting way to reward the best of the best and provide an added layer of drama for our fans...,” said Andy Pazder, Chief Tournament and Competitions Officer for the PGA TOUR.

**Tiger Tracker:**

It was bound to come up.

Tiger Woods, PGA TOUR winner for the first time since 2013, sitting at the dais with the TOUR Championship trophy be-

side him. “What does it mean to now be just two wins back of Sam Snead?”

“To get to the 80 mark is a big number,” Woods responded. “Sam is still ahead of me. I’ve still got, I feel like, a chance to play some more golf and maybe I’ll keep chipping away at that number and maybe surpass it.”

Woods captured the 80th PGA TOUR victory of his phenomenal career on September 23, and now sits just two back of matching Snead on the all-time wins list. Snead won a record 82 times between 1936 and 1965.

His career back on track, Woods can, with three victories, surpass Snead this season. What seemed almost a certainty until 2014, when his back troubles began, may finally happen in 2019. It will undoubtedly be the biggest storyline to watch this season.

“I just think that what I’ve gone through and what I’ve dealt with, I’ve gotten lucky, to be honest with you,” Woods said. “I’ve gotten very lucky. I’m not playing a full contact sport... At 42 years old with a fused lower spine; that’s not going to happen.

“But in this sport, it can. I’m lucky to have the opportunity to have the people around me to have supported me and worked through this process with me, and I’ve ground out a chance to win golf tournaments again.”

## TOUR SNIPPETS

Retief Goosen of South Africa during Travelers Championship at TPC River Highlands



## PGA TOUR CHAMPIONS ANNOUNCES 2019 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

The PGA TOUR Champions 2019 tournament schedule will feature 27 events and culminate with the 30th annual Charles Schwab Cup Championship, it was announced. The 24-event Regular Season will again highlight the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, which will be used to determine the season-long champion. The Tour will contest events in four countries and 19 states in its 40th season, with total prize money of nearly \$58 million.

“We are excited to announce the 2019 PGA TOUR Champions schedule as we continue to build unparalleled engagement for our fans and title sponsors who enjoy watching golf’s legends compete on some of the game’s best venues,” said PGA TOUR Champions President Greg McLaughlin.

The Tour will welcome a handful of new players next year, including two-time U.S. Open champion (2001 and 2004) and 2019 World Golf Hall of Fame inductee Retief Goosen of South Africa, as well as two-time major champion Angel Cabrera of Argentina (U.S. Open 2007 and Masters 2009). World Golf Hall of Fame member Ernie Els, who turns 50 after the conclusion of the regular season, will have to wait until 2020 to make his official debut.

“I am excited to begin this new chapter in my career and eager to compete alongside my peers on PGA TOUR Champions,” said Goosen. “The level of competition on this Tour is incredible and creates great drama for fans around the world each week, and I cannot wait to be a part of it.”

## THE NORTHERN TRUST RAISES \$1.865 MILLION FOR CHARITY

While the \$1.865 million THE NORTHERN TRUST generated this year is certainly impressive, it is stories like those of Ray Harold and his son, Chris, that give meaning and context to the incredible impact of the PGA TOUR’s first event in the FedExCup Playoffs.

The New Jersey Golf Foundation helped provide Chris with the opportunity to compete at the Special Olympics USA Games and capture two gold medals. It’s also given Ray—the coach of the New Jersey Special Olympics golf team—the chance to cherish every moment with his son. Despite being diagnosed with terminal cancer two years ago, Ray made sure absolutely nothing got in the way of him traveling across the country and caddying for Chris in Seattle this summer.

“Golf has allowed me to cultivate some of my most cherished relationships, especially the special connection I share with my son, Chris, as his playing partner, coach and caddy,” Ray Harold said. “This game has given us so much, Chris now works in the industry and is working to become a PGA member. THE NORTHERN TRUST’s support of the New Jersey Golf Foundation allows us to introduce this wonderful sport and its many benefits to athletes with a variety of intellectual disabilities.”

The announcement means that the event has generated nearly \$50 million since 1967, while stories from the Harold family add life and light to those numbers.



## AARON WISE VOTED 2018 PGA TOUR ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



Aaron Wise has been named the 2018 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year, as voted by the TOUR’s membership for the 2017-18 season.

PGA TOUR members who played in at least 15 FedExCup events during the 2017-18 season were eligible to vote. The balloting process ended on October 1.

The 22-year-old resident of Las Vegas earned his first PGA TOUR victory at the AT&T Byron Nelson, becoming the second player in history to win on the Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada (PGA TOUR-era), Web.com Tour and PGA TOUR, joining Mackenzie Hughes. His win also represented the 500th TOUR win by a Web.com Tour graduate.

“On behalf of the PGA TOUR, our congratulations to Aaron Wise on being voted PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year,” said PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan. “For Aaron to

have won on the PGA TOUR, the Web.com Tour and Mackenzie Tour before the age of 22 is remarkable, and qualifying for the TOUR Championship as a rookie proved there is no stage too big for him.”

One of eight rookies to qualify for the 2018 FedExCup Playoffs, Wise was the only one to advance to the season-ending TOUR Championship, finishing No. 24 in the FedExCup. For the season, Wise collected four top-10s in 29 starts, highlighted by his win at the AT&T Byron Nelson and a runner-up at the Wells Fargo Championship. In the FedExCup Playoffs, Wise tied for fifth at THE NORTHERN TRUST and earned two additional top-20s.

The University of Oregon product is the first player from a Pac-12 Conference school to win the PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year award since Tiger Woods in 1996.





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ARELAUQUEN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB IS IN A SKIING AREA OF





...IN HIGH  
PLACES...



LEFT ARELAUQUEN'S 15TH HOLE.  
RIGHT PLAY USHUAIA GOLF CLUB ON THE SOUTHERN TIP OF ARGENTINA,  
THEN JUMP ON A CRUISE SHIP TO ANTARCTICA.

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FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL, LA PAZ GOLF CLUB IN BOLIVIA CLAIMS TO BE THE HIGHEST CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE IN THE WORLD.



KODAK 400TMY-2







# W



WHEN WE SAY Dom Furore gets around, we're not kidding. In 33 years of chasing stories across five continents and dozens of countries—who else do you know who's been to Bahrain, Burundi, India, Iceland, Russia and Rwanda, just for starters?—Golf Digest's senior staff photographer has taken some of the most enduring images in the magazine's history. ● This month he brings you Part Five of his series on mountain golf, traveling high into the Andes of South America to capture courses in Argentina and Bolivia. (His previous black-and-white essays included the Canadian Rockies, the French and Swiss Alps, the Himalayas in Nepal and China, and sharing Alaska with bears, moose and eagles.) ● “When you get to the hotel in La Paz [where the airport sits at 13,323 feet above sea level], they give you tea and a pill to help with the altitude,” Dom says. “You start to think, *What the heck is this?* But whatever it was, it worked.” ● As you might expect, Dom has picked up other travel tips through the years, including No. 1 from longtime Golf Digest photographer Stephen Szurlej: “Always take a pair of flip-flops,” Dom says. “On one of my first assignments, I bought a pair for about four or five bucks. They had about three million miles on them before they finally broke about six months ago. They're the only thing I've never managed to lose.” ● Next stop for Dom: Is there a golf course in Antarctica? ●

# THIS IS GONNA HURT



SIT DOWN BEFORE YOU READ ABOUT THE GOLFER WHO SUFFERED A . . . **FRACTURED TESTICLE**

BY MICHAEL J. YOUNG, M.D.

**I**'VE BEEN A PHYSICIAN for three decades, and handling Friday-night call duty was always particularly stressful for me. Often it followed a busy week and involved trying to avoid problems over the ensuing 72 hours while covering my practice and my partners.' If Friday night was bad, the weekend would almost certainly be difficult. Problems came in multiples—and tended to go from bad to worse.

One such weekend began on a beautiful Chicago summer night. As usual for a call night, I went to bed around 10 p.m., hoping to get a reasonably good night's sleep. Often, that was difficult, not because of any specific call but because of the *anticipation* of the call. This particular weekend, my practice group was on emergency-room call, which meant that we were responsible for any "unassigned" patients, meaning those who presented to the ER without any previous patient-doctor relationship with a physician on staff. Many such patients had no insurance and limited if any previous medical care, and could therefore be the most challenging. There was no reference point for the treating physician, and the patients were often suspicious of us and of "the system." Usually they were brought in by ambulance to the closest emergency room.

On this night, I was awakened around 11:30 p.m. for a consultation. I could predict a long night ahead of me, along with a stressful remaining weekend, within 10 seconds of hearing the reason for the interruption of my REM sleep: A 43-year-old man had suffered a fracture of the testicle.

The testicle is surprisingly resistant to injury, despite its exposed location, front and center, and despite being shielded by very little. (Scrotal skin is quite thin, and there's no significant layer of muscle or fat for protection.) With a predilection for just hanging, the testicle would appear ripe for injury. But it is the very lack of resistance, the ability to be pushed aside in a compliant scrotal sac, that allows the testicle to avoid a significant injury when struck.

Most males who have gone through puberty have at one time or another felt the nauseating ache that comes with being hit firmly in the testicle. The pain, indescrib-

EDITOR'S NOTE: Excerpted with permission from *The Illness of Medicine: Experiences of Clinical Practice*, copyright © 2018 by Michael J. Young, M.D., GM Books, 263 pages, \$30.

ably significant, causes one to bend over and drop to one's knees, barely able to utter a sound through the suffering. Embryologically, the testicle takes its origin in the vicinity of the kidneys, and throughout gestation (pregnancy) it gradually moves into the scrotum during normal fetal development. The nerves and blood supply to the testicle have their origin up high in the posterior aspect of the abdomen. An injury to the testicle, from a sudden kick or blow, can consequently cause the pain to be experienced by the poor victim where the nerves originate. So with this type of injury, not only is there the local pain from the scrotum and testicle being struck but also the excruciating abdominal pain.

I walked into the ER around midnight and discovered, among other things, that the patient with the testicular fracture, who was lying on a gurney, was also articulate, educated and insured. I had reviewed his scrotal ultrasound before examining him. The blow to the testicle had been so severe and sudden that the actual covering—the fibrous shell around the testicular components (responsible for sperm production and testosterone)—was split open, causing the contents to be expelled from inside the shell. It was sort of like a cracked-open egg. You can only imagine the type of discomfort this would have caused at impact.

I examined the patient, confirming the diagnosis, and discussed with him the need for surgical exploration to salvage the testicle, if possible. In some cases, the damage to a ruptured testicle is so severe that, without viable tissue to repair, the testicle needs to be removed.

Our conversation led to the man revealing how the injury had occurred: He was hitting golf balls at a local driving range.

## THE VICTIM HAD BEEN HITTING GOLF BALLS AT THE RANGE WHEN HE WAS HURT. THEN HE FINISHED THE BUCKET.

### A SLICE GONE HORRIBLY BAD

**I**'m an avid golfer. I love the game—the history, the architecture of courses, the physics of how a ball flies. I often find myself daydreaming about playing a good round and how satisfying it feels to hit a golf ball solidly. So how on earth did this golfer, hitting balls at a range, get here?

I knew the range quite well; I'd hit balls there hundreds of times. It was double-tiered, curved to allow balls to be aimed toward the middle. There were numerous light poles, for those of us who just can't get in enough practice during daylight. Apparently, the man practicing next to the patient hit a nasty slice with his driver. The man hit his ball so badly, with such force, that it ricocheted off a light pole and hit my patient smack in the scrotum.

The thought of the event—the sound of the impact, the pain involved—was dizzying. As I interviewed the patient before surgery, my heart sank that a fellow golf addict had suffered such injury while attempting to improve his swing.

But wait. According to my patient's story of woe, he'd been injured in the middle of the day, and it was now nearly midnight. I asked why it had taken him so long to go to the ER.

"I had to finish my bucket of balls," he replied.

I was unclear if I'd heard him properly. Had he really just said he pulled himself off the ground after suffering a testicular fracture and continued to hit balls? If so, I had a new hero!

He informed me that he'd limped back to his car after finishing his bucket, driven home, and stretched out on the couch. Not until later, after doing a Google search, had he learned that a "significant injury" might have occurred. He figured this must have explained the swelling and pain.

After hearing this, I wasn't so sure he was my hero anymore. If I had a scrotum that was starting to look like a pomegranate, and getting larger, I don't think I'd be at home deciding whether to seek treatment.

I took him to surgery and was able to salvage the majority of the testicle. He did well, and went home the next day. My weekend was still in its infancy. Another day on call. **G**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY Sandro



**THE WINNER** of the  
**NOBEL PRIZE** in **ECONOMICS**  
has ideas for **THE GAME**

“

RICHARD THALER



NOBEL



GOLFER

BY DAVID OWEN

”

# IN

THE MOVIE “The Big Short”—based on Michael Lewis’ book of the same name, about the collapse of the global financial system in 2007-’08—the singer Selena Gomez and the University of Chicago economist Richard H. Thaler explain the “hot-hand fallacy” as it applies to the Wall Street weapons of mass destruction known as synthetic collateralized debt obligations. The scene takes place at a blackjack table in a casino. Gomez is dealt an ace and a 10—

blackjack—and therefore can’t lose. During the filming, she at first didn’t react to her cards, and Thaler pointed out that a real player with an unbeatable hand would at least have cracked a smile. So, in the take that appears in the movie, Gomez and Thaler exchange high-fives, and the extras crowding behind them clink glasses and cheer. Thaler figures that, because of his contribution to the movie’s verisimilitude, he ought to have received a directing credit, if not gross points—and also that he was robbed at the Academy Awards. “Doubly so, in fact,” he told me recently, “since I ad-libbed all my lines, and the writer-director won the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.”

In October, Thaler’s pain was assuaged, somewhat, when a different academy, in Sweden, gave him the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel—the Nobel Prize in economics. The award was in recognition of Thaler’s contributions to behavioral economics, a field he was instrumental in creating. His foundational insight was that human beings, and therefore the markets they throw money at, are far less rational than neoclassical economic theory assumes them to be. This idea—that people are basically idiots—might seem unsurprising to anyone who’s not a neoclassical economist, but for many years Thaler’s fellow academics considered him a fringe thinker. He has gradually won over most of them, though, and he has done so with creativity and humor, as well as by finding mathematically rigorous ways to explain why mathematical rigor can’t explain everything.

Thaler is also a golfer. His regular playing companions include two other Chicago economists: Eugene F. Fama, who shared a Nobel Prize in 2013, and Steven D. Levitt, who is the co-author (with the journalist Stephen J. Dubner) of the *Freakonomics* books, which have introduced millions of non-economists to behavioral-economic thinking. People who win the Nobel Prize are inevitably hounded by pushy journalists and self-serving well-wishers, but an important finding from my own work in behavioral economics is that golfers are always up for golf. And, indeed, when I emailed Thaler, Fama and Levitt, they responded faster than my children usually do. After several reply-alls back and forth, accompanied by a little schedule-rearranging and nervous forecast-checking, we were able to pick a date and a tee time that accommodated everyone but Fama, who had a commitment in Texas that he couldn’t think of a way to back out of.

“Things have been crazy,” Thaler said when we met. “I’ve said no to everyone but The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, PBS NewsHour and Golf Digest—the Big Four.” Levitt had already told me, by email, “I’ve dreamed about being on the cover of Golf Digest more often than I’ve dreamed about winning the Nobel Prize.”

Thaler is 72. He played a little golf when he was growing up, in New Jersey, but he wasn’t crazy about it. “Then, when I went to college, I took up tennis, and I basically played tennis until I was 60. That’s when I saw the writing on the wall. Old-man tennis is just ugly—four guys standing around—and I’m really a clay-court-singles kind of guy.” He and his wife, France Leclerc, decided to try golf instead. (She’s a retired marketing professor and a talented amateur photographer. You can see a selection of her work at [franceleclerc.com](http://franceleclerc.com).) “France and I took a three-day course, and I got hooked immediately,” he continued. “There was some muscle memory, and



## 20 Questions

with Nobel laureate  
Richard Thaler

1

**What’s your idea of a perfect round?**

Three good friends, nice weather, and two birdies. Second choice: out by myself on an empty course, late afternoon, hitting two balls. Peace.

2

**What’s your go-to shot, the one you know you can pull off?** Tap-in from one inch.

3

**What’s the shot that keeps you up at night?** Long bunker shot, downhill lie.

4

**What’s the best part of your game?** Banter.

5

**Best tip you ever got?** A bunker shot is just another golf shot.

6

**Where in the world would you like to go with your golf clubs?** Augusta.

7

**What is it that golfers don’t understand?** Most people play tees that are too long for them. And not everyone in the foursome should play the same tees. If skill varies, then ideally everyone has the same club in their hand on their second shot on a par 4 and on the tee on a par 3.

8

**What do you dislike about your golf self?**

When my mind wanders, which is what it does most of the time, on and off the course.

9

**What golfer would you most like to be like?** Jordan Spieth—I like his thoughtful game. His mind does not seem to wander.

10

**What’s the difference between golf and economics?** No gimmes in economics.

11

**Why are golfers so despised by nongolfers?** Don’t know, but people don’t much like economists either. I will say that the folks you meet on a public course like Torrey Pines are a great cross section. Not a single jerk.

12

**Who would you most like to play golf with?** President Obama.

13

**Favorite article of golf clothing?** Kingsbarns sweater.

14

**Tiger Woods or Jack Nicklaus?** Arnie. ↑

15

**What golfer do you most identify with?** Jason Dufner.

16

**What was your happiest moment on the golf course?** When my friend David Schkade and I couldn’t find either of our golf balls on an uphill par 3 at Steel Canyon in San Diego, and one of our playing partners (a stranger) found both of our balls in the hole. Top that one.

17

**Nobel Prize or Masters green jacket?** Oscar.

18

**Where in golf would you want your ashes scattered?** Off the Torrey Pines cliffs.

19

**What song is in your head when you swing?** None! Maybe that’s what I’m doing wrong.

20

**Phil Mickelson told us he won a Nobel Prize in economics. True or false?** Well, if he would like to see if his is the real thing, tell him I spend part of the year in La Jolla, and he can come see if his is a counterfeit.



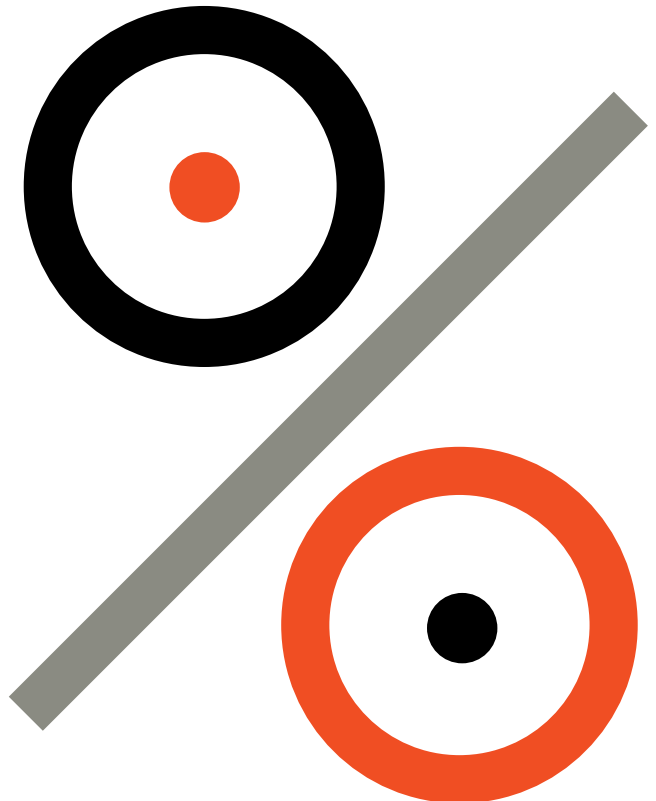
**“GOLF WOULD BE A DIFFERENT GAME IF NOBODY HAD EVER THOUGHT OF THE IDEA OF PAR. THERE ARE VERY FEW 260-YARD HOLES, FOR EXAMPLE. WHY NOT? FOR A LOT OF GOLFERS, THAT WOULD BE PERFECTLY NICE.”**

some transfer from tennis, in terms of eye-hand coordination. And pretty soon after that, France broke her arm and never played again.”

At first, Thaler played most of his rounds at Jackson Park, on the shore of Lake Michigan virtually across the street from the university. (The park was the site of the 1893 World’s Fair, and its golf course, which opened in 1899, was the first public course in the Midwest. The park will be the home of Barack Obama’s presidential library, and the course is about to be redesigned and renovated by Tiger Woods.) Fama—who is six years older and had taken up golf a couple of years before—joined Beverly Country Club, which is also close to the university. “I don’t think I would have thought of joining a club on my own, because I wasn’t very serious about it,” Thaler says. “But Gene took me to play at Beverly, and it turned out to be a great place to learn the game.”

Beverly opened in 1908. Its current layout was created by Donald Ross, who redesigned the course in 1918 and took advantage of the fact that the property straddles what was once the southern edge of Lake Chicago, a sort of ur-Great Lake. Several holes play into or out of the old lakebed and among what used to be low dunes along the shoreline. Ron Whitten, Golf Digest’s architecture editor, told me that the course’s routing is “a great example of how to fit a design into a long, skinny rectangle and make it work” and that the architecture is “excellent if not quite superlative enough to be ranked among America’s very best.” Francis Ouimet won a U.S. Amateur at Beverly, in 1931, and Chick Evans, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus all won Western Opens there. “The course is brutal,” Thaler said. “But one good thing about that is that it makes anywhere else seem like a walk in the park.”

Levitt—who’s also a Beverly member—had to teach a class on



the morning of our golf date and so wouldn't be joining us until we made the turn. Thaler and I warmed up with a few practice balls, then headed to the first tee, which you get to from the range by taking a cart through a tunnel that runs under all six lanes of West 87th Street. Four younger guys were about to tee off, but they stepped aside, in deference to the Nobel Prize and to the fact that Thaler is a known non-dawdler.

Thaler had described himself to me as a bogey golfer. He could be better if he decided he wanted to be, but he's a very laid-back player. We didn't keep score, and if his ball got muddy, he cleaned it. On one long hole, his approach shot ricocheted off a tree and disappeared, and after maybe a minute of searching he told his caddie to abandon it. "I believe that people spend way too much time looking for golf balls," he said. Then: "Oh, look—here it is." He dropped one. "We'll try a feasible shot, one that I need to practice." He hit a good 50-yard wedge, and we moved on.

"Golf would be a different game if nobody had ever thought of the idea of par," he said a little later. "There are very few 260-yard holes, for example. Why not? For a lot of golfers, that would be perfectly nice." He also has doubts about the diameter of the golf hole (which is 4.25 inches only because when players at what's now Royal Musselburgh Golf Club, in Scotland, asked a local plumber to fashion a hole-cutting device for them, in 1829, that was the size of the pipe he had on hand.) "You know how practice greens sometimes have those tiny holes?" Thaler said. "Imagine that all golf holes were like that. On a course like this one, where the greens are normally super-fast, that would be horrible. Now suppose that holes were an inch bigger than they are now. Would that be better? I don't know—although Fama would like it, because he says that short putts ruin the game."

Levitt was waiting in the clubhouse when we finished the first nine, and he and I chatted while Thaler went to the locker room to put on an outfit that Golf Digest's photographer had picked out for him in Beverly's golf shop. Levitt is 50, and, unlike Thaler, he's deeply obsessed with the game. When he was in his 40s, he entertained the delusion, common among middle-age men, that if he found the right teacher and worked really hard on his handicap, he would have a non-zero chance of qualifying for the senior tour. (Golfers didn't invent irrationality, but we've contributed to the field.) Levitt has gotten over all that now, although he still prefers the range to the golf course—and, of course, to the office.

Thaler returned from the locker room, and Levitt told me about an encounter he'd had with the economist Larry Summers, who probably would have won a Nobel Prize by now if he hadn't forsaken academic research to become, among other things, the chief economist of the World Bank, the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and the president of Harvard University. Levitt said, "Summers came up to me at a conference and said, 'Steve, I really need your help. There's a question that no one else in the world can answer for me.'" Levitt, naturally, was deeply flattered—maybe something about interest rates? Summers continued, "My handicap is 18. I want to be a 13. I'm your pupil. Tell me what I need to do."

Thaler and I had played the first nine from Beverly's green tees, the forward-most set rated for men, from which the course—a par 71—measures a little more than 6,200 yards. That was plenty long enough for both of us, and it would be plenty long enough for the vast majority of golfers anywhere in the world. But Levitt told me that, as far as he can tell, he, Thaler and Fama are the only men at Beverly who don't play from either the whites, which are more than 300 yards longer than the greens, or the blues, which are 300 yards longer than that. "And I know we're the only ones who play the greens," he continued, "because we never find any broken tees."

Fama, at first, was appalled by the idea of moving up. But one day several years ago, Levitt told him, untruthfully, that he'd hurt his knee and didn't feel up to walking all the way back to the whites. "The hole was a par 5, and from the green tees, Gene hit driver, 3-wood, 8-iron," Levitt continued. "When he saw his ball on the green, he said, 'That's the first time in five years that I've reached a par 5 with an iron'—and he's never played the whites since. He's a fast learner. It took him exactly one hole to realize what he hadn't been able to see ahead of time. But to get him there, I had to trick him."

Levitt's trick was actually an example of what might be Thaler's best-known contribution to human happiness—the concept of the "nudge" (which also provided the title of his most popular book so far, co-written with the legal scholar Cass R. Sunstein). In Fama's case, the nudge was probably more of a shove, but the idea is the same. If humans really were as rational as most 20th-century economists assumed them to be, male golfers would find the green tees all by themselves. But, for a variety of reasons, not least among them inertia, people routinely make self-defeating decisions, or non-decisions, even if they've been offered obviously sensible alternatives. A useful workaround, Thaler has demonstrated, is to use inertia as a force for good, rather than evil, by requiring people to opt out of desirable courses of action, instead of requiring them to opt in. The most commonly cited example has to do with retirement funds. If a company creates a pension plan and invites employees to sign up, they often don't; but if the company enrolls employees automatically and allows them to drop out, they seldom do. This approach has sometimes been criticized as paternalistic,

or coercive, but if employees who don't save enough for retirement suffer harm later and regret not having acted intelligently when they had the opportunity to do so, what's the problem? Besides, recklessly ignoring human nature is a form of coercion, too.

Every year, the Swedish Embassy invites the American Nobel Prize winners to a reception in Washington before they take their trip to Stockholm. The festivities traditionally include a visit to the White House—and this year that posed a problem for at least some of the recipients, Thaler among them. But the Swedes, with diplomatic aplomb, apparently devised a graceful solution: They scheduled the reception for a day when the problem was going to be in Asia.

After our round, Levitt had to rush off to another appointment, but Thaler had time for a drink in Beverly's grillroom. I asked him how winning the Nobel Prize had changed his life. "Well, here at Chicago, Nobel Prize winners are a dime a dozen," he said. "You get a little cred for about a week, but then it's back to, you know, 'You're only as good as your last paper.'" One nice thing about Thaler's prize, for those of us who aren't economists, is that it proves a brilliant person can be brilliant without being incomprehensible to laymen. Thaler's two most recent books—*Nudge* and *Misbehaving*—are immensely readable, and Thaler is often very funny. *Misbehaving* is worth its cover price for the chapter called "The Offices" alone.

When it was time to leave, I asked him whether there was anything I ought to have asked him that I hadn't known to ask. "Well," he said, "why don't you ask me whether there's some golf course I'd really like to play?" So I did, and if you, too, spend much of every winter dreaming about the Masters, you can easily guess his answer. "And you can put that in your article," he said. I told him I would and added that I was pretty sure that someone in a position to grant such a wish would read what I'd written and grasp the obvious benefits of spending a couple of days playing golf with a personable, fascinating, fun-to-hang-around-with guy who also happens to be a superstar in a discipline that has seldom been more important than it is right now. (That's a nudge.) 🍌



**SUPPOSE THAT  
HOLES WERE AN INCH  
BIGGER THAN THEY  
ARE NOW. WOULD  
THAT BE BETTER?**





“Your pitch mark shows how far you’re really hitting it.”

#### SET UP AN APPROACH FROM ABOVE

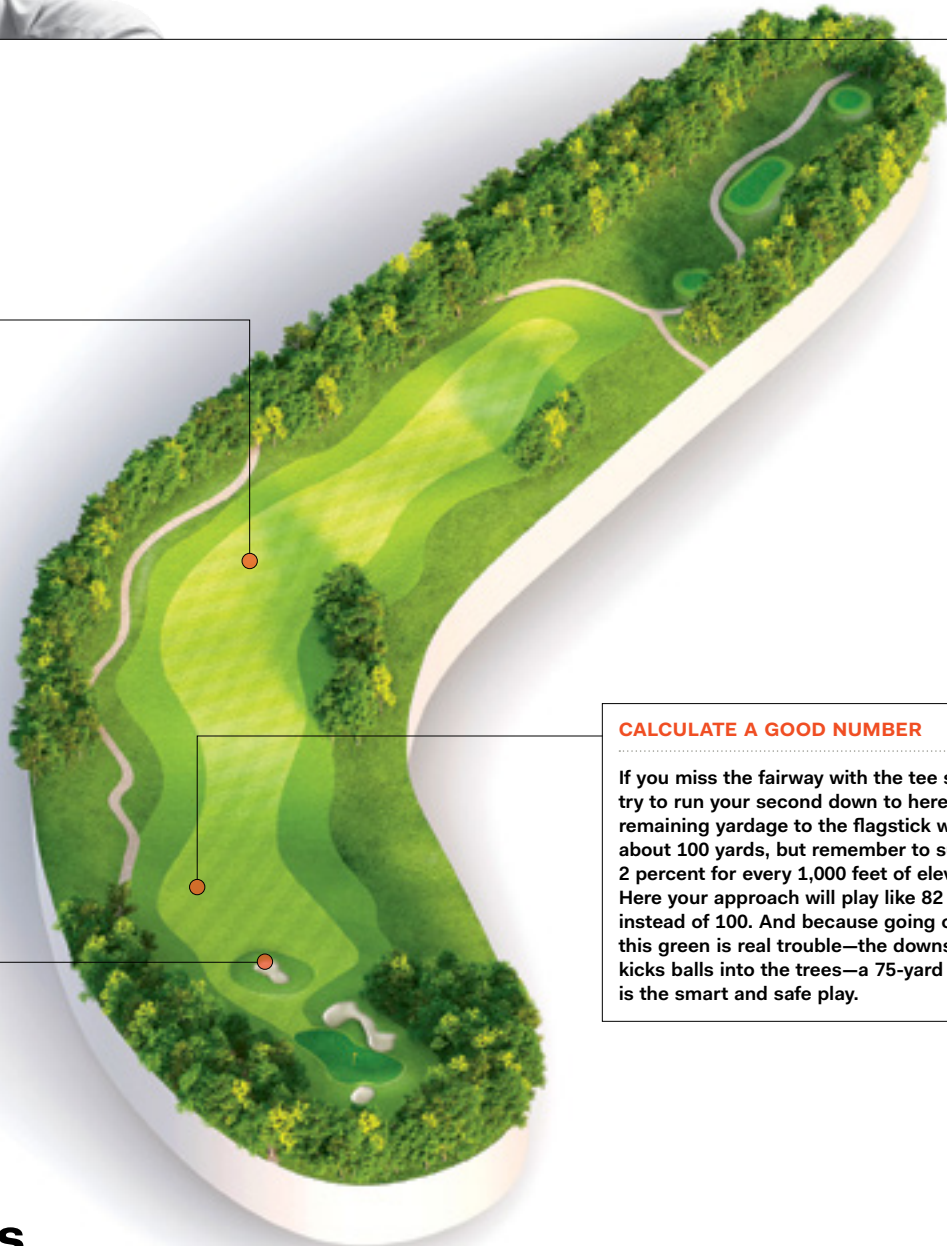
Driving the ball in the fairway is essential to taking advantage of a hole like this. The hole is relatively flat from the tee box to this landing area, but then the fairway slopes dramatically down to the green. Your opportunity to exploit the gradient is with the second shot. You’ll need a clean lie to hit a towering long approach. The longer a fairway-wood or long-iron shot can hang in the air, the greater the distance boost you get from the downslope.

#### MIND THE KEY BUNKER

This large bunker dictates most of your strategy. If you can carry it with the second shot, the downslope of the fairway will pitch the ball forward onto the green. If you’re not sure you can carry this bunker, you really should lay short. A 50-yard bunker shot is the most difficult play in golf. Put a ball in this bunker with your second shot, and you’re going to struggle to make a 5.

#### CALCULATE A GOOD NUMBER

If you miss the fairway with the tee shot, try to run your second down to here. Your remaining yardage to the flagstick will be about 100 yards, but remember to subtract 2 percent for every 1,000 feet of elevation. Here your approach will play like 82 yards instead of 100. And because going over this green is real trouble—the downslope kicks balls into the trees—a 75-yard swing is the smart and safe play.



## High Hopes

### Picking the right club at elevation

**P**laying in the mountains is a special experience. Besides the aesthetic pleasure of seeing for miles in many directions, it’s thrilling how the ball cuts through the thin air and flies farther than you’re accustomed. But if you don’t know how to account for this newfound power, you’re going to struggle with club selection.

My rule is to subtract 2 percent of the yardage for every 1,000 feet of altitude. The Summit Course at The Club at Cordillera, which I designed in Vail, Colo., is 9,000 feet

above sea level, so the holes typically play 18-percent shorter than their listed yardage. Illustrated here is the 559-yard, par-5 17th. Eighteen percent of 559 is roughly 100, so first calculate that the hole plays 459 yards. But because the tee box is 63 feet higher than the green, the hole plays closer to 450 yards.

That means golfers who normally don’t reach par 5s in two might have a real chance to get home on this hole. The lesson: At higher elevations, never be intimidated by the yardage on the card. —WITH MAX ADLER

#### DIAL IN FOR THE DAY

► Elevation is a big factor in how far the ball carries, but humidity, temperature and how well you’re swinging on a given day also are important. If your irons are flying five yards less than normal, you need to recognize that ASAP and adjust. My trick was for my first few solid approaches, I always paced my pitch mark to a yardage I knew for certain, like the flagstick or front of the green. That let me know if I needed to modify my usual carry distances for the rest of the round.

**A**lthough only 26, England's Tyrrell Hatton has a mature golf swing built over a decade that he trusts in the most pressurized situations. For that reason, unlike many pros who tinker, Hatton's practice is based on keeping his swing just the way it is.

That's why Hatton's father, Jeff, describes himself as a swing mechanic and not a coach.

"I get involved with his game if something is off," Jeff says of Hatton, a three-time winner on the European Tour and virtual lock to play in this year's Ryder Cup. "If he's playing well, I don't

need to provide input. It's been nearly 10 years since I've had to do any true coaching."

Instead, the Hattons focus on Tyrrell's setup, two positions in his backswing (the start and the top) and good balance. The goal is to produce a swing that produces the straightest ball flight

possible. Tyrrell says he shapes the shot only when necessary.

"Ninety percent of the work we do in the studio is with launch monitors and high-speed video," Jeff says. "My eyes are mostly drawn to the sidespin numbers. The less, the better!"

— E. MICHAEL JOHNSON



## Tyrrell Hatton

**Straight driving will make him a valuable teammate at this year's Ryder Cup**

### GETTING READY

A good swing starts with the basics, says Jeff Hatton, Tyrrell's father and swing coach. They constantly check things such as alignment, balance, shaft lean, etc. When it comes to gripping the club, Tyrrell's left-hand position is a little weak. "He likes to see only one knuckle," Jeff says.

### CHECKPOINT ONE

The Hattons constantly monitor Tyrrell's takeaway. "Although it's difficult to see from this camera angle, we're looking to make sure the shaft is parallel to his foot line when it's parallel to the ground," Jeff says. "We also want the clubface matching his spine angle."

### PLANE TRUTH

Tyrrell swings back with minimal lower-body movement, which promotes balance and helps set the club on plane. "The shaft is rarely off plane in Tyrrell's swing," Jeff says. "If we get in the proper slot, we're good. If not, his tendency is for his swing to be too vertical."

“Everything we do works toward a philosophy of aim straight, hit straight.” — Jeff Hatton



#### CHECKPOINT TWO

Notice the butt end of the driver is directly over the right heel at the top of the swing. That's ideal, Jeff says. Hatton's weight is loaded onto the back foot, and it's even from heel to toe. The shaft is short of parallel and the left knee turned in. "Tyrrell should be feeling very balanced in this position," Jeff says.

#### SPECIAL DELIVERY

Hatton's downswing fosters the lag many tour pros possess and sets the club in a great position for impact. "We want the shaft to be parallel to the foot line on the way down," Jeff says. "That delivers the club in a straight line to the target."

#### COPY CAT

At impact, Tyrrell's left arm is slightly bowed, like Jordan Spieth, to keep the clubface square to the target longer. And after impact, he's up on his toes, like Justin Thomas, because it helps generate more power, Jeff says. "He's been doing that since he was a young boy."

#### STICK IT

Despite getting up on his toes, Hatton returns to the ground and plants his left foot solidly ending the swing with his hips properly facing the target, Jeff says. The orientation of the hips facing the target is key, Jeff adds, but "most importantly, it's a balanced finish," he says.

#### PRO-FILE

**TYRRELL HATTON**  
26 / 5-9 / 165 pounds  
Marlow, England

**DRIVER**  
Ping G400 LST  
(8.5 degrees)

**BALL**  
Titleist Pro V1x



## Get Longer

### One move to start ripping your driver

**A** lot of golfers have been told to keep the trail elbow close to the body on the backswing. I can't think of a worse tip for driving. With the trail arm cramped going back, the golfer has a very narrow swing and a restricted body turn—and will struggle to create power and consistent strikes.

Forget that. I want the trail arm (right arm for righties) to be as long as possible *for as long as possible*. That does a few amazing things. First, it widens the swing arc, which increases the distance the clubhead travels back and, in turn, creates more room for it to accelerate into the ball. A wide arc also pulls the body into a full rotation. Second, with the clubhead moving back straighter, it won't get stuck behind the body. Golfers who get stuck either swing into the ball from too far inside (pushes or hooks) or heave the club away from the body on the downswing (pulls and slices). Third, it creates space between the club and the body, so the trail elbow can drop down at the start of the downswing and set up a powerful inside path to impact.

You in? Then make this your one swing thought: *Trail arm long for as long as possible*. You'll hit longer, straighter drives.

**MICHAEL BREED** is Golf Digest's Chief Digital Instructor.



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## Power Packed

### 3 ways to pre-set pure impact

**C**heck out my downswing here. I call this the delivery position. The closer you get to impact, the less you can do—or undo—before you hit the ball. You're basically on cruise control. That said, you can monitor this position when you practice. Swing down, stop here, and check three things.

#### 1. WEIGHT TO FRONT FOOT

▶ You can see my knees are shifting toward the target, and I'm starting to roll onto my right instep. This means I'm making a proper weight shift to my left side, which will help me strike the ball, then the ground for crisp contact. Also, I'm posting up on my left leg, pushing off the ground. That upward thrust is a major speed generator.

#### 2. TRAIL ARM STILL BENT

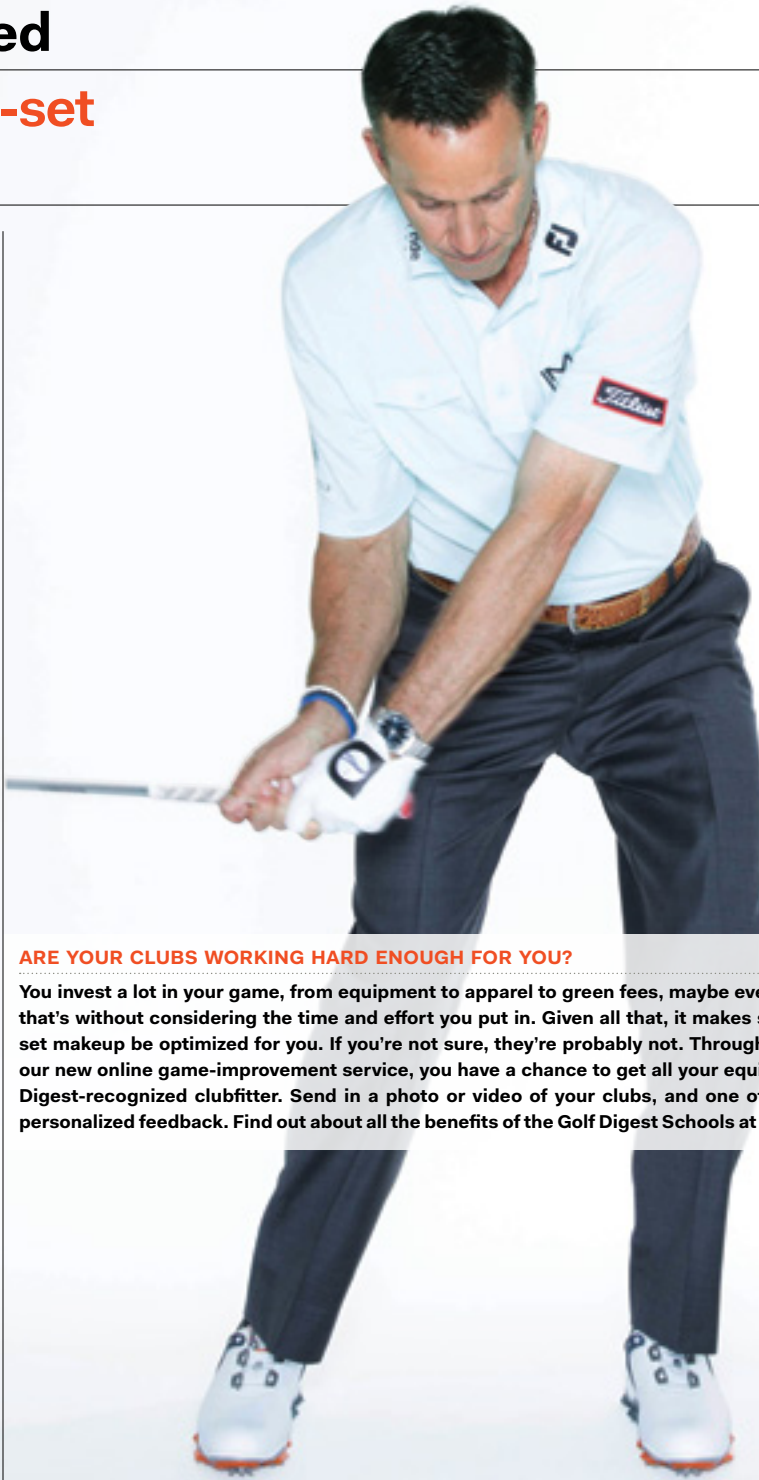
▶ At this point in the downswing, a lot of amateurs have straightened the trail arm; they try to use it to create power from the top of the swing. When it stays bent, it keeps the club on an inside path to the ball, which is best for power. The trail arm shouldn't fully straighten until the club is a couple feet past impact.

#### 3. WRIST ANGLE RETAINED

▶ With the butt end of the club back in front of my right thigh, the shaft is parallel to the ground, which proves I've kept my wrists hinged. Players who think they need to flip the face closed or help the ball up unhinge the wrists too soon. Keeping them loaded gives you a burst of speed at impact and prevents hitting the ground before the ball.

There's so much more to say about the delivery position. Maybe I'll do a whole show on it. Check out my live golf clinic "The Leading Edge" on Thursdays at [golfdigest.com/live](http://golfdigest.com/live).

**MICHAEL BREED** is Golf Digest's Chief Digital Instructor.



#### ARE YOUR CLUBS WORKING HARD ENOUGH FOR YOU?

You invest a lot in your game, from equipment to apparel to green fees, maybe even country-club dues, and that's without considering the time and effort you put in. Given all that, it makes sense that your clubs and set makeup be optimized for you. If you're not sure, they're probably not. Through the Golf Digest Schools, our new online game-improvement service, you have a chance to get all your equipment analyzed by a Golf Digest-recognized clubfitter. Send in a photo or video of your clubs, and one of our experts will provide personalized feedback. Find out about all the benefits of the Golf Digest Schools at [golfdigest.com/allaccess](http://golfdigest.com/allaccess).

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This forged clubhead's central mass is positioned higher in the lower lofts to prevent full shots from ballooning, and it's lower on the highest lofts to help shots launch higher and land softer. \$100

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On this forged design with milled grooves, a thicker top section of the face helps flatten trajectory. The slightly oversize shape has extra off-set for forgiveness. \$375

**CLEVELAND  
RTX 4**

Tour-player input influenced the compact shape and extra sole grinds. But it's the new milling process that yields sharper grooves and more surface friction for better spin. \$140

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GLIDE FORGED**

This tour-inspired design's compact shape is forged from soft carbon steel and has milled grooves with sharper edges for more spin. A gooseneck hosel and rounded leading edge help ease turf interaction. \$200

## Short Answers

### Wedges and putters need to be fit, too

BY MIKE STACHURA

**W**e all know that sharpening your short game is the smartest way to improve. Heck, you can even practice in your office. But even though the wedge and putter are the easiest clubs to swing, fittings are a rarity. Consider this: "More than 90 percent of golfers don't have the right wedge lofts," says Nick Sherburne, founder and master fitter at Club Champion, one of our 100 Best Clubfitters. He suggests knowing the loft of your pitching wedge and building the rest of your wedge set with 4- or 5-degree gaps between each wedge. It's not much better with putters. Todd Sones, one of Golf Digest's Best Teachers in Illinois, believes at least 60 percent of players who come to his short-game school are using an ill-fitting putter: "Very rarely do we see a player come in set up correctly, and often players are adapting to the putter instead of the other way around." He says the right length is critical. "Length affects setup, setup affects stroke, and weight matches with the right length for better feel and control." If you want a lower handicap, get better with your wedges and putter—like some of the latest here:

# Most golfers use wedges and putters that aren't properly fit for them.

## TAYLORMADE SPIDER MINI

The popular Spider Tour line adds a truncated model made to feel blade-like with a more forward center of gravity. But with its mallet shape, there's still stability on off-center hits. **\$300**



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It can be difficult to know when your putter is properly soled and aimed correctly. The scope and red ball on top help you recognize when you've got your putter in the wrong position—and when you get it right. **\$180**



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## PXG THE OPERATOR

The extended heel and toe wings make this PXG's most stable putter. Adjustable sole weights and three hosels provide options. An internal thermoplastic elastomer controls vibration. **\$450**

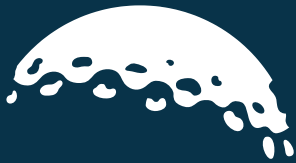


# TATA HITACHI

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## TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

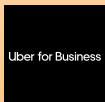
Mumbai	Saturday, 19th January	Bombay Presidency Golf Club
Delhi	Saturday, 2nd February	ITC Classic Golf Resort
Hyderabad	Saturday, 16th February	Hyderabad Golf Association
Bangalore	Saturday, 2nd March	Prestige Golfshire
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Bombay Presidency Golf Club  
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September 20, 2018

## **Ajay Rampal**

AEPTA  
New Delhi  
September 10, 2018

## **Chirag Thakkar**

Glade One  
Ahmedabad  
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## **Sunil Kumar Mehrotra**

Rambagh Golf Club  
Jaipur  
August 17, 2018

## **Ajay Chopra**

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## **Shyamal Baksi**

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The text 'DRIVE YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH GOLF' is rendered in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The words 'BUSINESS', 'THROUGH', and 'GOLF' are significantly larger than 'DRIVE YOUR'. Each letter of these three words is filled with a different golf-related image: 'B' shows a golfer in a red shirt, 'U' shows a golfer in mid-swing, 'S' shows a golfer in a white shirt, 'I' shows a golf ball on a green, 'N' shows a golfer in a pink shirt, 'E' shows a golf ball on a green, 'S' shows a golfer in a white shirt, 'T' shows a golfer in a white shirt, 'H' shows a golf ball on a green, 'R' shows a golfer in a white shirt, 'O' shows a golf ball on a green, 'U' shows a golfer in a white shirt, 'G' shows a golf ball on a green, 'H' shows a golfer in a white shirt, 'G' shows a golf ball on a green, 'O' shows a golf ball on a green, 'L' shows a golf ball on a green, 'F' shows a golf ball on a green.

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# Closeout: GAMESMANSHIP MATRIX

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ASKING,  
"IS THAT O.B.  
LEFT?"

SAYING,  
"NICE LAG" WHEN  
AN OPPONENT  
MISSES A  
SHORT PUTT

WALKING  
AHEAD OF  
YOUR OPPONENT  
AND REFUSING  
TO ENGAGE IN  
SMALL TALK

THE AWKWARDLY  
TIMED RULES  
REMINDER: "YOU  
KNOW YOU CAN'T  
GROUND YOUR  
CLUB IN THERE,  
RIGHT?"

SAYING,  
"I DIDN'T GET  
ALL OF THAT ONE"  
AFTER PIPING  
A DRIVE

TAKING  
EXTRA TIME AT  
THE SNACK BAR  
OR BATHROOM



ACCEPTABLE

SAVAGE

ASKING ON  
THE TEE,  
"OH, IS IT  
MY HONOR  
AGAIN?"

OFFERING  
PASSIVE-AGGRESSIVE  
COMPLIMENTS:  
"YOUR SWING IS . . .  
REALLY  
INTERESTING"

WALKING  
BEHIND YOUR  
OPPONENT  
AS HE PUTTS  
TO GET AN IDEA  
OF THE LINE

COVERING  
THE NUMBERS  
ON YOUR IRONS  
SO YOUR OPPONENT  
HAS NO CLUE WHAT  
CLUB YOU HIT

SAYING, "THE  
NEXT ONE'S GOOD"  
WHEN YOUR  
OPPONENT IS OVER  
A THREE-FOOTER

COMMISSIONING  
A MILITARY  
FLYOVER  
DURING THE  
BACKSWING

OVERT



# “Golf Makes You Think And Focus...”

**Parthasarathy Ramanujam, Vice President-Asia Pacific at RAK Ceramics**, enjoys travelling and has set foot on about 30 countries and lists music and golf among his hobbies. A keen reader, he constantly seeks interesting reading material to gain knowledge from. Partha, as he is known in his circles, has been playing golf for nearly a decade and is one of those golfers who does not use any golf app on his mobile. And interestingly, he prefers to be part of different fourballs each time he plays in order to constantly learn and get better. Here he is in conversation with **Nikhil Narain...**

**1 GDI: What is your home club?**  
Madras Gymkhana, Chennai

**2 GDI: When did you start playing golf?**  
Since 2009

**3 GDI: What do you love about the game?**  
Golf challenges you in every game; it makes you think and focus

**4 GDI: Who have you played golf with the most?**  
I have my own fourball back in Chennai. They are professionals working in different fields.

**5 GDI: Favourite golf course, both in India and abroad**  
Jaypee Greens, Greater Noida here in India. Abroad, the famed St. Andrews in Scotland.

**6 GDI: Your thoughts on doing business on the golf course...**  
It works very well! Brings people together and spending time with them does help close deals.

**7 GDI: How often do you get to play?**  
About 4-6 times a month

**8 GDI: Favourite golfers among men and women**  
Sweden's Henrik Stenson among men and Inbee Park of South Korea among ladies.

**9 GDI: Any inspiration in life that you would cite... What brought you to golf?**  
I've always wanted to get into this sport because, according to me, golf is the only game where you play yourself. In other sports, there are opponents and your game could be decided by them too. Here, you may play the same course and yet you could score differently each time. Depending on your mood and circumstances, the game changes...



"I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GET INTO THIS SPORT BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO ME, GOLF IS THE ONLY GAME WHERE YOU PLAY YOURSELF."

**10 GDI: Your current handicap**  
14

**11 GDI: Your lowest handicap**  
11

**12 GDI: On average, how far do you drive the ball?**  
Around 250 yards

**13 GDI: Please describe your most memorable golfing experience**  
In one of the holes at Oxford Golf Resort, Pune there is a dead end behind the green (with the

mountains and foliage beyond). So... If one strikes hard, they hit the rock, and if they go a bit softer, a bunker awaits. The challenge there was quite memorable!

**14 GDI: Your favourite holiday destination**  
Lisbon, Portugal

**15 GDI: Preferred mid-round power snack**  
Vitamin-C drink and almonds

**16 GDI: Favourite dish on course**  
A simple tomato and cheese sandwich

**17 GDI: Your advice to young, aspiring golfers...**  
Dedicate yourself to the game. Many give up after they start. There is no substitute to hard work. Play in as many different courses to understand the nuances of the holes and the ability to overcome them.

**18 GDI: Favourite 19th hole drink**  
Vodka with chilli

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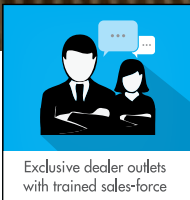
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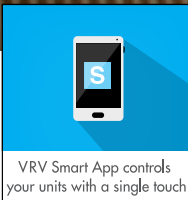
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